

THE
ADVENTURES

OF

RODERICK RANDOM.

Smollett (5)

WRITTEN BY

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Dr. S M O L L E T,

And abridged by R. LEWIS, Corrector of the Press.

A NEW EDITION.

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OF

ROBERT OF RABBIT



BY J. M. C. A. A.

THE BRITISH MUSEUM, LONDON

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RODERICK RANDOM.

I WAS born in Scotland, in the house of my grandfather, who had signalized himself in behalf of his country ; and was remarkable for his abilities in the law, which he exercised, in quality of a judge.

My father, his youngest son, fell in love with a poor relation, who lived with the old gentleman, as house-keeper ; whom he privately espoused ; of which marriage I am the first fruit. During her pregnancy, she dreamed she was delivered of a tennis-ball, which the devil (who acted the part of a midwife) struck so forcibly with a racket, that it disappeared in an instant ; when all of a sudden it returned and earthed itself beneath her feet, whence immediately sprung up a goodly tree covered with blossoms, the scent of which operated so strongly on her nerves that she awoke. This dream was expounded to signify that I should be a great traveller, undergo many dangers and difficulties,

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and at last return to my native land, where I should flourish with great reputation and happiness. How truly this was foretold, will appear in the sequel. It was not long before some officious person informed my grandfather of familiarities that passed between his son and house-keeper, which induced my father to own what he had done, and excused himself for not having asked the consent of his father, by saying, he knew it would be to no purpose. The old gentleman heard him to an end with great temper; and then calmly asked, how he proposed to maintain himself and spouse? He replied, he could be in no danger of wanting, while his father's tenderness remained. Your brothers and sisters, said my grandfather, did not think it beneath them to consult me in an affair of such importance as matrimony; neither (I suppose) would you have omitted that piece of duty, had you not some secret fund in reserve, to the comforts of which I leave you, with a desire that you will this night seek out another habitation for yourself and wife. So saying, he left my father in a situation easily imagined. However he did not long hesitate; but betook himself with his disconsolate bed-fellow, to a farm house where an old servant of his mother dwelt; there they remained in a situation but ill adapted to the tenderness of their love; which nevertheless, my father endured, rather than supplicate an unnatural parent; but the violence of my mother's affliction had such an effect on her constitution, that she was soon after seized with the pains of childbed; and had not an old maid-servant afforded her assistance, she and the innocent fruit of her womb must have fallen victims to his inhumanity. By the friendship of this poor woman,

woman, she was carried up to a garret, and immediately delivered of a man child; the story of whose unfortunate birth he himself now relates. My father, informed of what had happened, flew to the embraces of his darling spouse, and while he loaded his offspring with caresses, could not forbear shedding a flood of tears, on beholding the dear partner of his heart stretched upon a flock-bed, in a miserable apartment. It is not to be supposed that the old gentleman was ignorant of what passed, though he pretended to be much surprised, when the son of his deceased eldest son, a pert boy, who lived with him as his heir apparent, acquainted him with the affair; he determined therefore to preserve no medium, but immediately (on the third day after the delivery) sent her a peremptory order to be gone, and turned off the servant who had preserved her life. The injuries which this unhappy mother received from her removal in such circumstances, and the want of necessaries, threw her into a languishing disorder, which put an end to her life. My father was so affected with her death, that he remained six weeks deprived of his senses; during which time, the people where he lodged, carried the infant to the old man, who relented so far, that he sent the child to nurse, and ordered my father to be carried home to his house, where he soon recovered the use of his reason, but at length disappeared, which confirmed most people in the opinion of his having made away with himself in a fit of despair. Meanwhile, I grew apace, and as I strongly resembled my father, who was the darling of the tenants, I wanted nothing which their indigent circumstances could afford: but their favour was a weak re-

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source against the jealous enmity of my cousins; who, before I was six years of age, had so effectually blockaded my grandfather, that I never saw him but by stealth. I was soon after sent to school at a villiage hard by, and became a good proficient in the Latin tongue: and as soon as I could write tolerably, pestered my grandfather with letters to such a degree, that he sent for my master, and chid him severely for bestowing such pains on my education, telling him, that if ever I should be brought to the gallows for forgery, which he had taught me to commit, my blood should lie on his head. The pedant assured his honour that the boy's abilities were more owing to his genius and application, than to any instruction or encouragement he received; that although he could not divest him of the knowledge he had already imbibed, unless he would impower him to disable his fingers, he should endeavour, with G—d's help, to prevent his future improvement. And indeed, he performed what he had undertaken: for he caused a board to be made with five holes in it, through which he thrust the fingers and thumb of my right hand, and fastened it by whip-cord to my wrist, in such a manner, that I was effectually debarred the use of my pen. I was also often inhumanly scourged for crimes I did not commit, because every piece of mischief whose author lay unknown, was charged upon me. I have been found guilty of robbing orchards I never entered, of killing cats I never hurt, of stealing gingerbread I never touched, and of abusing old women I never saw. In short, whether I was guilty or unfortunate, the vengeance and sympathy of this arbitrary pedagogue were the same. Far from being subdued by
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this infernal usage; my indignation triumphed over that slavish awe which had hitherto enforced my obedience; and the more my years and knowledge encreased, the more I perceived the injustice and barbarity of his behaviour. By the help of an uncommon genius, and the advice and direction of our usher, who had served my father in his travels, I made a surprizing progress in the classics, writing and arithmetick; so that before I was twelve years old, I was confessedly the best scholar in the school. Mean while, I took the advantage of every play-day, to present myself before my grandfather, to whom I seldom found access, by reason of his being so closely besieged by a numerous family of his female grandchildren, who though they perpetually quarrelled among themselves, never failed to join against me, as the common enemy of all. His heir never set eyes on me, without uncoupling his beagles, and hunting me into some cottage or other, whither I generally fled for shelter. In this christian amusement, he was encouraged by his preceptor, which incensed me so much, that one day, I took aim at him with a large pebble, which struck out four of his foreteeth, and effectually incapacitated him for doing the office of a clerk ever after. About this time, my mother's only brother, lieutenant of a man of war, arrived in his own country; where being informed of my condition, he came to see me, and not only supplied me with what necessaries I wanted for the present, but resolved not to leave the country, until he had prevailed on my grandfather to settle something handsome for the future. He was a strong built man, somewhat bandy-legged, with a neck like that of a bull, and a face which had withstood

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the most obstinate assaults of the weather. His dress consisted of a soldier's coat altered for him by the ship's taylor, a striped flannel jacket, a pair of red breeches japanned with pitch, clean grey worsted stockings, large silver buckles that covered three-fourths of his shoes, a silver-laced hat whose crown over-looked the brims about an inch and a half, a black bob wig in the buckle, a check shirt, a silk handkerchief, an hanger with a brass handle, girded to his thigh by a tarnished laced belt, and a good oak plant under his arm. Thus equipped, he set out with me (who by his bounty made a very decent appearance) for my grandfather's house, where we were saluted by Jowler and Cæsar, who my cousin had let loose at our approach. Being well acquainted with the inveteracy of these curs, I was about to betake myself to my heels, when my uncle seizing me with one hand, brandished his cudgel with the other, and at one blow laid Cæsar sprawling on the ground: but finding himself attacked in the rear by Jowler, he drew his hanger, and by a lucky stroke, severed Jowler's head from his body. By this time, the young fox-hunter and three servants, armed with pitch forks and flails, were come to the assistance of the dogs, whom they found breathless upon the field. My cousin was so provoked at the death of his favourites, that he ordered his attendants to advance, and take vengeance on their executioner, upon which my uncle accosted their leader thus: lookee, brother, your dogs having boarded me without provocation, what I did was in my own defence. So you had best be civil, and let us shoot a-head, clear of you. Whether the young squire misinterpreted my uncle's desire of peace, or was enraged at the fate of his

his hounds beyond his usual pitch of resolution, I know not: but he snatched a flail from one of his followers, and came up with a shew of assaulting the lieutenant, who putting himself into a posture of defence, proceeded thus: lookes, you lubberly son of a w——e, if you come athwart me, ware your gingerbread-work. I'll be foul of your quarter, d——n me. Here a parley ensued, which was introduced by my cousin's asking, Who the d——l are you? What do you want? Some scoundrel of a seaman (I suppose) who has deserted and turned thief. None of your jaw you swab, none of your jaw, (replied my uncle) else I shall trim your laced jacket for you. I shall rub you down with an oaken towel, my boy, I shall. So saying, he sheathed his tranger and grasped his cudgel. Mean while we were admitted, and conducted to my grandfather's chamber, through a line of my relations. When we came into the judge's presence, my uncle, after two or three sea-bows, expressed himself in this manner: your seryant, your seryant. What cheer, father? what cheer? I suppose you don't know me, may hap you don't, my name is Tom Bowling, and this here boy, you look as if you did not know him neither, 'tis like you mayn't, he's new rigged, i'saith; his cloth don't shake in the wind so much as it wont to do. 'Tis my nephew, d'ye see, Roderick Random, your own flesh and blood, old gentleman. Don't lag a-stern you dog, don't (pulling me forward.) My grandfather (who was laid up with the gout) received this relation, after his long absence, with that civility and coldness which was peculiar to him; told him he was glad to see him, and desired him to sit down. Thank ye, thank ye, sir, I

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had as lief stand, (said my uncle) for my own part I desire nothing of you ; but if you have any conscience at all, do something for this poor boy, who has been used at a very unchristian rate. Come, come, consider, old gentleman, you are going in a short time, to give an account of your evil actions. The least thing you can do, is to settle his father's portion on him. The young ladies, who thought themselves too much concerned to contain themselves any longer, set up their throats all together against my protector, who stopped his ears with his fingers, and cried out, that all the devils in hell had broke loose upon him. Scurvy companion, saucy tarpawlin, rude, impertinent fellow, did he think to prescribe to grandpapa ? his sister's brat had been too well taken care of ; grandpapa was too just not to make a difference between an unnatural rebellious son, and his dutiful loving children, who took his advice in all things ; and such expressions were levelled against him with great violence, until the judge at length commanded silence. He calmly rebuked my uncle for his unmannerly behaviour, which he said he would excuse on account of his education ; he told him he had been very kind to the boy, whom he had kept at school seven or eight years, and would bind him apprentice to some honest tradesman or other. The honest tar answered my grandfather ; thank you for your courteous offer, of binding the lad apprentice to a tradesman ; I suppose you would make a tailor of him, would you ? I had rather see him hang'd, d'ye-see. Come along, Rory, I perceive how the land lies, my boy ; b'wye, old gentleman, you're bound for the other world, but I believe damnably ill provided for the voyage. Thus ended

ended our visit, and we returned to the village, my uncle muttering curses all the way against the old shark and the young fry that surrounded him. A few weeks after our first visit, the old judge sent for a notary and made his will; and desired to see all his descendants without exception. In obedience to this summons, my uncle sat out with me. often repeating by the road, ey, ey, we have brought up the old hulk at last. When we entered his chamber, he approached him with these words, How fare ye, how fare ye, old gentleman? Lord have mercy upon your poor sinful soul. This homely consolation scandalized the company so much, that we were obliged to retire into another room, where in a few minutes, we were convinced of my grandfather's decease, by a dismal yell uttered by the young ladies in his apartment; whither we immediately hastened, and found his heir, asking, with a countenance beslobbered with tears, if his grandpapa was certainly dead? Dead, (says my uncle, looking at the boy) ay, ay; I'll warrant him as dead as a herring. Mayhap old buff has left my kinsman here, his heir: to avoid any disturbance, one of my grandfather's executors assured Mr. Bowling, that his nephew should have all manner of justice. In the mean time, orders were given to provide mourning for all the relations. During which interval, the conjectures of people, with regard to the old gentleman's will were various; as it was well known, he had, besides his landed estate, which was worth 700*l. per annum*, six or seven thousand pounds at interest. At length the important hour arrived, and the will was produced, when an attorney pronounced aloud, the young Squire sole heir of all his grandfather's estate, personal

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sonal and real. My uncle, who had listened with great attention, sucking the head of his cudgel all the while, accompanied these words of the attorney with a stare, and a *whew*, that alarmed the whole assembly. He then cried to me, in a loud tone, Come, Rory, about ship, my lad, we must steer another course, and away we went. On our way back to the village, my uncle spoke not a word for an hour, but whistled, *Why should we quarrel for riches, &c.* his visage being contracted into a most formidable frown. At length his pace was increased to such a degree, that I was often left behind, which, when he perceived, he would wait for me; and when I was almost up with him, call out in a surly tone, Bear a hand, damme, must I bring too every minute for you, you lazy dog. Then he would say, Come, my boy, don't be cast down, the old rascal is in hell, that's some satisfaction; you shall go to sea with me, my lad. But this resolution was soon dropt, at the advice of our usher, who assured Mr. Bowling, it would be a thousand pities to baulk my genius, which would certainly, one day make my fortune on shore, provided it received due cultivation. Upon which, this generous tar determined (though he could ill afford it) to give me university education; and accordingly, settled my board and other expences at a town not many miles distant, famous for its colleges, whither we repaired in a short time.

In the mean time my uncle being informed of my master's behaviour to me, was enraged beyond all comprehension, and vowed revenge so heartily, that I could not refrain from telling him a scheme I had concerted, to flog him as he had so often done

done me, which he heard with great satisfaction, at every sentence, squirting out a mouthful of spittle, tinctured with tobacco, of which he constantly chewed a large quid. At last, pulling up his breeches, he cried, No, no, Z——ds! that won't do neither, howsomever, 'tis a bold undertaking, my lad; but lookee, lookee, won't the enemy give chace, my boy? and alarm the whole coast? ah! G—d help thee, more sail than ballast, Rory.— Let me alone for that, I'll shew him the fore-top-sail, I will. If so be that your ship-mates are jolly boys, and won't flinch, you shall see, you shall see; egad, I'll play him a salt-water trick. Squire Gawky, son of a worthy gentlemen, and Hugh Strap, the son of a shoemaker, that had a real regard for me, were very proud of our associate, who immediately went to work, and prepared the instrument of his revenge with great skill and expedition. At length the hour arrived, when our auxiliary, seizing the opportunity of the usher's absence, bolted in, secured the door, and immediately laid hold of the pedant by his collar, who bawled out, Murder! Thieves! with the voice of a Stentor. My uncle having upbraided this arbitrary wretch with his inhumanity to me, told him, that he proposed to give him a little discipline for the good of his soul; which he immediately put in practice with great vigour and dexterity. When the lieutenant thought himself sufficiently revenged, he took his leave of him in these words: Now, friend, you'll remember me the longest day you have to live, I have given you a lesson, that will let you know what flogging is, and teach you to have more sympathy for the future. We then quitted the place, and lay that night at an inn on the road,
about

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about ten miles short of the town where I was to remain, at which we arrived next day, and I found I had no cause to complain of the accommodations provided for me ; being boarded at the house of an apothecary, who had married a distant relation of my mother. In a few days after, my uncle set out for his ship, after having settled the necessary funds for my maintenance and education.

As I was now capable of reflection, I began to consider that my sole dependence was on the generosity of one man ; who was exposed by his profession to continual dangers, which might one day deprive me of him for ever. Alarmed at this consideration, I resolved to apply myself with great care to my studies, and this I did with such success, that in the space of three years, I understood Greek very well, was pretty well advanced in the mathematicks, and no stranger to moral and natural philosophy. These qualifications, added to a good face and shape, acquired the esteem and acquaintance of the most considerable people in town, and I had the satisfaction to find myself in some degree of favour with the ladies ; but my cousins, who resided in the same town, did not desist from persecuting me. They had recourse to a scheme to give them all the satisfaction they desired :—this plan was to prevail on my companion to betray the trust I reposed in him, by imparting to them the particulars of my small amours, which they published with such exaggerations, that I suffered very much in the opinion of every body, and was utterly discarded by the dear creatures whose names had been called in question. While I was busied in tracing out the author of this treachery, I one day perceived the looks of my landlady so altered

altered when I went home to dinner, that upon inquiring into the cause, she screwed up her mouth, and fixing her eyes on the ground, told me her husband had received a letter from Mr. Bowling, with one inclosed for me; she was very sorry for what had happened, both for my sake and his own, but people should be more cautious of their conduct.

These letters were no sooner read, than the apothecary shaking his head, began: I have a very great regard for Mr. Bowling, that's certain, and could be well content, but times are very hard; there's no such thing as money to be got, I believe 'tis all vanished under ground, for my part. Besides, I have been out of pocket already, having entertained you since the beginning of this month, without receiving a six pence. So, I desire you will this week provide yourself with another lodging. The indignation which this harangue inspired, gave me spirits to support my reverse of fortune; and to tell him I despised his mean, selfish disposition so much, that I would rather starve than be beholden to him for one single meal. Upon which, out of my pocket money, I paid him to the last farthing of what I owed, and assured him I would not sleep another night under his roof.— This said, I sallied out, in a transport of rage and sorrow, without knowing whither to fly for shelter, having not one friend in the world capable of relieving me, and only three shillings in my purse. After giving way for a few minutes to the dictates of my rage, I went and hired a small bed-room at the rate of one shilling and six pence *per* week, which I was obliged to pay *per* advance, before the landlord would receive me; and next morning got up with a view of craving the advice and assistance
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of some persons who had, on all occasions, loaded me with caresses, and made frequent offers of friendship, while I was under no necessity of accepting them. But when I communicated the occasion of my visit, they not only absolutely refused to give me any assistance, but insulted my distress. I now found myself deserted to all the miseries of extreme want, and avoided by mankind as a creature of a different species, when I was one day told, that a gentleman desired to see me at a certain public house, whither immediately I repaired; and was introduced to one Mr. Lancelot Crab, a surgeon in the town, who after having discoursed with me for some time, engaged me as his shop-man. I was accordingly that very night admitted to his house; and an apartment assigned to me in the garret, which I was fain to put up with, notwithstanding the mortification my pride suffered in this change of circumstances. In this manner I lived without hearing the least tidings of my uncle for the space of two years, during which time I kept little or no company, being neither in humour to relish, nor in a capacity to maintain much acquaintance; for the Nabal my master allowed me no wages; and the small perquisites of my station scarce supplied me with the common necessities of life. I was no longer a pert unthinking coxcomb, giddy with popular applause, and elevated with the extravagance of hope; my misfortunes had taught me how little the caresses of the world during a man's prosperity are to be valued by him; and how seriously and expeditiously he ought to set himself about making himself independent of them. When I deemed myself sufficiently master of my business, I began to cast about for an opportunity of launching

ing into the world, in hopes of finding some provision, that might make amends for the difficulties I had undergone; but as this could not be effected without a small sum of money, I was in the utmost perplexity how to raise it, well knowing, that Crab, for his own sake, would never put me in a condition to leave him, when his interest was so much concerned in my stay. But his maid-servant becoming with child, and as she averred by me, I persuaded her to lay it to the account of her master, with whom she had had connexions. This she did; and he being then willing I should quit him, that he might then lay the child to my door, he supplied me with money, and I set out in a few weeks for London, my whole fortune consisting of one suit of clothes, half a dozen ruffled shirts, as many plain, two pair of worsted stockings, as many thread; a case of pocket instruments, a small edition of Horace, Wiseman's surgery, and ten guineas in cash; for which Crab took my bond, bearing 5 per cent. interest; at the same time giving me a letter to the member of parliament for our town, which he said would do my business.

As there is no such convenience as a waggon in this country, and my finances were too weak to support the expence of hiring a horse, I set out with the carriers who transport goods from one place to another on horseback, 1st November, 1739, sitting upon a pack saddle, between two baskets, one of which contained my goods in a knapsack. But by the time we arrived at Newcastle upon Tyne, I was so fatigued with the tediousness of the carriage, and benumbed with the coldness of the weather, that I resolved to travel the rest of my journey on foot, rather than proceed in such a disagreeable manner.

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Stepping into a barber's shop to be shaved, the young man, while he lathered my face, accosted me thus: Sir, I presume you are a Scotchman. To which I answered in the affirmative. Pray (continued he) of what part of Scotland; I no sooner told him than he discovered great emotion, and not confining his operation to my chin and upper lip, besmeared my whole face with great agitation. At which I was so offended, that starting up, I asked him what the d—l he meant by using me so? He begged pardon, telling me his joy in meeting with a countryman had occasioned some confusion in him, and craved my name. But when I declared my name was Random, he exclaimed in a rapture, How! Rory Random? The same, I replied, looking at him with astonishment; What, cried he, don't you know your old school-fellow, Hugh Strap? At that instant recollecting his face, I flew into his arms, and in the transport of my joy, gave him back one half of the suds he had bestowed on my countenance; so that we made a very ludicrous appearance, and furnished a great deal of mirth to his master and shop-mates, who were witnesses of this scene. When our mutual caresses were over, I communicated to him my situation and design, but he did not approve of my taking a passage at sea, whereks, if I could venture by land, he would bear my company, carry my baggage as well as his own, all the way; and if we should find ourselves fatigued, it would be no hard matter for us to find on the road either rein or horses or waggons, of which we might take the opportunity for a very trifling expence. I was so ravished with this proposal, that I embraced him affectionately, and assured him he might command

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my purse to the last farthing; but he gave me to understand, he had saved money sufficient to answer his own occasions; and that he had a friend in London, who would soon introduce him into business in that capital; and might possibly have it in his power to serve me likewise.

Having concerted our plan, and settled our affairs that night, we departed next morning by day-break. We travelled all day at a round pace, but were benighted at a good distance from any inn, which compelled us to take up our lodging at a small hedge ale-house, that stood by itself on a by-road, about half a mile from the high-way. There we found a pedlar of our own country, in whose company we regaled ourselves with bacon and eggs and a glass of good ale, before a comfortable fire, conversing all the while very sociably with the landlord and his daughter, an hale buxom lass, who entertained us with great good humour, and in whose affection I was vain enough to imagine I had made some progress. About eight o'clock we were all three, at our own desire, shewn into an apartment, where were two beds, in one of which Strap and I betook ourselves to rest, and the pedlar occupied the other. I slept very sound till midnight, when I was disturbed by a violent motion of the bed, which shook under me with a continual tremor. Alarmed at this phenomenon, I jogged my companion, whom I found drenched in sweat, and quaking through every limb; he told me with a low faltering voice, that we were undone; for there was a bloody highwayman loaded with pistols, in the next room; then bidding me make as little noise as possible, he directed me to a small chink in the board partition, through which I could see a thick
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set, brawny fellow, with a fierce countenance, sitting at a table in company with our young landlady, having a bottle of ale and a brace of pistols before them. I listened with great attention, and heard him say in a terrible tone: d—n—n! I am betrayed, who's that in the next room? Mrs. Betty told him, he need not be uneasy, there were only three poor weary travellers, who, mistaking the road, had taken up their lodging there, and were asleep long ago. Travellers! says he, spies, you b——ch! but no matter, by G—d I'll send them all to hell in an instant. He accordingly ran towards our door, when his sweetheart interposing, assured him, there was only a couple of poor Scotchmen, who were too raw and ignorant to give him the least cause of suspicion; and the third was a presbyterian pedlar of the same nation, who had often lodged in the house before. This declaration satisfied the thief, who swore he was glad there was a pedlar there, for he wanted some linen. Then in a jovial manner he put about the glass, mingling his discourse to Betty with caresses and familiarities, that spoke him very happy in his amours. During that part of the conversation which regarded us, Strap waked the pedlar, and informed him of what we had seen and heard, who rising softly, untied a rope that was round his pack, and making it fast to one end of it, opened the window, and lowered his goods into the yard with great dexterity; which having done, he moved gently to our bedside, and bid us farewell, telling us, that as we ran no risk, we might take our rest with great confidence, and in the morning assure the landlord, that we knew nothing of his escape.

It was no sooner day, than Betty, entering our chamber, and perceiving the window open, cried out, Ods bods! Sure you Scotchmen must have hot constitutions, to lie all night with the window open in such cold weather! I feigned to start out of sleep, and withdrawing the curtain, called, What's the matter? When she shewed me, I affected surprise, and said, Bless me! the window was shut when we went to bed. I'll be hanged, said she, if Sawny Waddle the pedlar has not got up in a dream and done it, for I heard him very obstreperous in his sleep. Betty, after a moment's pause, withdrew, and immediately we could hear her waken Risse, who jumped out of bed and dressed, venting a thousand execrations, and vowing to murder the pedlar if ever he could set eyes on him again; for, said he, the scoundrel has by this time raised the hue and cry against me. Having dressed himself in a hurry, he mounted his horse, and for that time rid us of his company, and a thousand fears that were the consequence of it.

After having paid our score, we proceeded on our journey, blessing ourselves that we had come off so well. We now perceived a croud on the road, coming towards us, shouting and hallooing all the way. As it approached, we could discern a man on horseback in the middle, with his hands tied behind him, whom we soon knew to be Risse.— They were carrying him to a justice of peace in a neighbouring village, but stopt at our inn to take refreshment. When Risse was dismounted, and placed in the yard, I was amazed to see what a pitiful dejected fellow he now appeared, who had but a few hours ago filled me with so much terror. My companion Strap was so much encouraged by this alteration

alteration in his appearance, that he declared he would cudgel or box with him for a guinea, but was dissuaded by me, who represented to him the folly of the undertaking, as Rifle was now in the hands of justice. But what made me repent of our curiosity was, our being detained as evidence against him, when we were just going to set forward. However, there was no remedy ; we were obliged to comply, and about twilight arrived at the place of our destination ; but as the justice was gone to visit a gentleman in the country, the robber was confined in a garret, from which it seemed impossible for him to escape ; this, nevertheless, was the case ; for next morning when they went up stairs, to bring him before the justice, the bird was flown, having got out at the window upon the leads, from whence he sculked until the family were asleep, at which time he ventured down stairs, and let himself out by the street door, which was found open. This was a great disappointment to those who apprehended him, who were flushed with the hopes of a reward ; but gave me great joy, as I was permitted now to continue my journey without any further molestation.

Having walked all day at a great pace, without halting for refreshment, we descried towards the evening, to our inexpressible joy, a waggon about a quarter of a mile before us ; and by that time we came up with it, were both of us so weary, that I verily believe it would have been impracticable for us to have walked one mile further. We therefore bargained with the driver, whose name was Joey, to give us a cast to the next stage for a shilling ; at which place we would meet the master of the waggon, with whom we might agree for the rest of the journey.

journey. Accordingly the convenience stopt, and Joey having placed the ladder, Strap (being loaded with our baggage) mounted first; but just as he was getting in, a tremendous voice assailed his ears in these words: G—d's fury! there shall no passengers come here. The poor shaver was so disconcerted at this exclamation, which both he and I imagined proceeded from the mouth of a giant, that he descended with great velocity, and a countenance as white as paper. Joey perceiving our astonishment, called with an arch sneer, Waunds, captain! whay woan't you sooffer the poor waggoner to make a penny? Coom, coom, young man, get oop, get oop, never mind the captain. This was not encouragement sufficient to Strap, who could not be prevailed upon to venture up again; upon which I attempted, though not without a quaking heart, when I heard the same voice muttering like distant thunder, By G—d I won't be used so, d—n—n seize me if I am. However I crept in, and by accident got an empty place in the straw, which I immediately took possession of without being able to discern the faces of my fellow travellers in the dark. Strap following with the knapsack on his back, chanced to take the other side, and by a jolt of the carriage, pitched directly upon the stomach of the captain, who bellowed out in a most dreadful manner, Blood and thunder! where's my sword? At these words, my frightened comrade started up, and at one spring, bounced against me with such force, that I thought the supposed son of Anak intended to smother me. In the mean time a female voice cried out, Bless me! what is the matter, my dear? The matter, replied the captain, damn my blood! my guts are almost squeezed out by that
 Scotchman's

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Scotchman's hump. Strap trembling all the while at my back, asked him pardon, and laid the blame of what had happened upon the jolting of the waggon. About this time I fell asleep, and enjoyed a comfortable nap till such time as we arrived at the inn where we put up. Here, having got out of the waggon, we all assembled in the kitchen, when captain Weazel (for that was his name) desired a room with a fire for himself and spouse; and told the landlord, they would sup by themselves. The inn-keeper replied, that he could not afford them a room by themselves; and as for supping, he had prepared victuals for the passengers in the waggon without respect of persons, but if he could prevail on the rest to let him have his choice in a separate manner, with all his heart: This was no sooner said, than all of us declared against the proposal, and Miss Jenny (our other female passenger) observed, that if captain Weazel and his lady had a mind to sup by themselves, they might wait until we should have done. At this the captain put on a martial frown, and looked very big, without speaking; while his yoke-fellow, with a disdainful toss of her nose, muttered something about creature, which Miss Jenny over-hearing, stepped up to her, saying, None of your names, good Mrs. Abigail; creature quotha! I'll assure you, no such creature as you neither, no ten pounds sneaker. In the midst of this quarrel, the master of the waggon alighted, who understanding the cause of it, and fearing the captain and his lady would take so much umbrage, as to leave his carriage, was at great pains to have every thing made up, which at last he accomplished, and we sat down to supper all together. At bed-time we were shewn to our apartments.

apartments. The old usurer, Strap and I; were conducted to one room, the captain, his wife and Miss Jenny, to another.

Next morning I agreed to give the master of the waggon ten shillings for my passage to London, provided Strap should be allowed to take my place when I should be disposed to walk. Nothing of any consequence happened to us during the day. About 7 o'clock at night we arrived at our inn, supped and went to bed; but Strap being obliged to get up in the middle of the night, and taking the candle in his hand, which he had left burning for the purpose, he went down to the house of office, whence in a short time he returned in a great hurry, with his hair standing on end, and a look betokening horror and astonishment. Without speaking a word, he set down the light, and jumped into bed behind me, where he lay and trembled with great violence. When I asked him what was the matter? he replied, with a broken accent, God have mercy on us! I have seen the devil. Though my prejudice was not quite so strong as his, I was not a little alarmed at the exclamation, and much more so, when I heard the sound of bells approaching our chamber, and felt my bed-cillow cling close to me, uttering these words, Christ have mercy upon us! there he comes. At this instant, a monstrous overgrown raven entered our chamber, with bells at its feet, and made directly towards our bed. As this creature is reckoned in our country, a common vehicle for the devil and witches to play their pranks in, I verily believed we were haunted; and in a violent fright, shrunk my head under the bed-clothes. This terrible apparition leapt upon the bed, and after giving us several severe dabs

with

with its beak through the blankets, hopped away, and vanished. Strap and I recommended ourselves to the protection of heaven with great devotion, and when we no longer heard the noise, ventured to peep up and take breath. But we had not long been freed from this phantom, when another appeared, that had deprived us nearly of four senses. We perceived an old man enter the room, with a long white beard that reached to his middle; there was a certain wild peculiarity in his eyes and countenance, that did not savour of this world; and his dress consisted of a brown stuff coat, buttoned behind, and at the wrists, and an odd-fashioned cap of the same stuff upon his head. I was so amazed that I lay motionless, and saw him come straight up to me; when he got to the bed, he wrung his hands, and cried with a voice that did not seem to belong to a human creature, Where is Ralph? I made no reply; upon which, he repeated in an accent still more preternatural, Where is Ralpho? He had no sooner pronounced these words, than I heard the sound of the bells at a distance; which the apparition having listened to, tripped away, and left me almost petrified with fear. It was a good while before I could recover myself so far as to speak; and when at length I turned about to Strap, I found him in a fit, which however did not last long. When he came to himself, I asked his opinion of what had happened; and he assured me, that the first must certainly be the soul of some person damned, which appeared by the chains about its legs (for his feet had magnified the creature to the bigness of a horse, and the sound of small morris bells to the clanking of massy chains;) as for the old man, he took it to be the spirit of somebody murdered

murdered long ago in this place, which had power granted it to torment the assassin in the shape of a raven, and that Ralpho was the name of the said murderer. Although I had not much faith in his interpretation, I was too much troubled to enjoy any sleep; and in all my future adventures never passed a night so ill. In the morning, Strap imparted the whole affair to Joey, who after an immoderate fit of laughter, explained the matter, by telling him that the old man was the landlord's father, who had turned idiot some years ago, and diverted himself with a tame raven, which, it seems, had hopped away from his apartment in the night, and induced him to follow it to our chamber, where he had inquired after it, under the name of Ralpho.

Nothing remarkable happened during the remaining part of our journey, which continued six or seven days longer. At length we entered the great city, and lodged all night at the inn, where the waggon halted. Next morning, all the passengers parted different ways; while my companion and I sallied out to inquire for the member of parliament, to whom I had a letter of recommendation from Mr. Crab. As we had discharged our lodging at the inn, Strap took up our baggage, and marched behind me in the street with the knapsack on his back as usual, so that we made a very whimsical appearance. As we walked along, Strap, at my desire, inquired of a carman whom we met, whereabouts Mr. Cringer lived; and was answered by a stare, accompanied with the word Anan! Upon which I came up in order to explain the question, but had the misfortune to be unintelligible likewise, the carman damning us for a lousy

Scotch guard, and whipping up his horses with a Gee ho! which nettled me to the quick, and roused the indignation of Strap so far, that after the fellow was gone a good way, he told me he would fight him for a farthing. While we were deliberating what was next to be done, an hackney coachman driving softly along, and perceiving us standing by the kennel, came up close to us, and calling, A coach, master! by a dexterous management of the reins, made his horses stumble in the wet, and bedaub us all over with mud. After which, he drove on, applauding himself with a hearty laugh, in which several people joined, to my great mortification; but one more compassionate than the rest, seeing us strangers, advised me to go into an ale-house, and dry myself. I thanked him for his advice, which I immediately complied with; and going into the house he pointed out, called for a pot of beer, and sat down by the fire in a public room, where we cleaned ourselves as well as we could; in the mean time, a wag who sat in a box smoking his pipe, understanding by our dialect who we were, came up to me, and, with a very grave countenance, asked me how long I had been caught? As I did not know the meaning of this question, I made no answer; and he went on, saying, it could not be a great while, for my tail was not yet cut; at the same time taking hold of my hair, and tipping the wink to the rest of the company, which seemed highly entertained with his wit. I was incensed at this usage, but afraid of resenting it, because I happened to be in a strange place, and perceived the person who spoke to me was a brawny fellow, for whom I was by no means a match. However, Strap having either more courage or less caution, could

could not put up with the insults that I suffered ; but told him with a peremptory tone, he was an unenvil fellow, for making so free with his betters. Whereupon the wit going toward him, asked, What he had got in his knapsack ? Is it oatmeal or brimstone, Sawney, (said he) seizing him by the chin, which he shook to the inexpressible diversion of all present. My companion feeling himself assaulted in such an opprobrious manner, disengaged himself in a trice, and lent his antagonist such a box on the ear, as made him stagger to the other side of the room ; and in a moment a ring was formed for the combatants. Seeing Strap beginning to strip, and my blood being heated with indignation, which banished all other thoughts, I undressed myself to the skin in an instant, and declared, that as the affront that occasioned the quarrel was offered to me, I would fight it out myself ; upon which, one or two cried out, that's a brave Scotch boy ; you shall have fair play, by G—d. This gave me fresh spirits, and going up to my adversary, who, by his pale countenance, did not seem much inclined to the battle, I struck him so hard on the stomach, that he reeled over a bench, and fell to the ground. Here I attempted to get a top of him, in order to improve my success, according to the manner of my own country, but was restrained by the spectators, one of whom endeavoured to raise up my opponent, but in vain ; for he protested he would not fight, being not quite recovered of a late illness. I was very well pleased with this excuse, and immediately dressed myself, having acquired the good opinion of the company for my bravery, as did also my comrade Strap, who shook me by the hand, and wished me joy of the victory. After having

drank our pot and dried our clothes, we inquired of the landlord if he knew Mr. Cringer the member of parliament, and were amazed at his replying in the negative; for we imagined he must be every bit as conspicuous here as in the borough he represented; but he told us we might possibly hear of him as we passed along. Whereupon we betook ourselves to the street, and as we wandered along, gaping about, a very decent sort of a man passing by me, stopped of a sudden, and took up something, which, having examined, he turned and presented it to me, with these words, Sir, you have dropped half a crown. I was not a little surprized at this instance of honesty, and told him it did not belong to me; but he bid me recollect, and see if all my money was safe, upon which I pulled out my purse (for I had bought one since I came to town) and reckoning my money in my hand, which was now reduced to five guineas, seven shillings and two pence, I assured him I had lost nothing. Well then, says he, so much the better, this is God send, and as you two were present when I picked it up, you are entitled to equal shares with me. I was astonished at these words, and looked upon this person to be a prodigy of integrity, but absolutely refused any part of the sum. Come, gentlemen, said he, you are too modest, I see you are strangers, but you must give me leave to treat you with a whet this cold morning. I would have declined this invitation, but Strap whispered me, that the gentleman would be affronted, and I complied. Where shall we go? (said the stranger) I am quite ignorant of this part of the town. I informed him that we were in the same situation; upon which he proposed to go into the first public house we should find open. At length as we passed through

through a dark narrow lane, we perceived a public house, which we entered ; and found a man sitting by the fire, smoaking a pipe, with a pint of purl before him. Our new acquaintance asked us, if ever we had drank egg flip ; to which we answering in the negative, he assured us of a regale, and ordered a quart to be prepared, calling for pipes and tobacco at the same time. We found this composition very palatable, and drank heartily ; the conversation (which was introduced by the gentleman) turning upon the snares that young unexperienced people are exposed to in this metropolis. He described a thousand cheats that are daily practised upon the ignorant and unwary ; and warned us of them with so much good nature and concern, that we blessed the opportunity which threw us into his way. In a short time after he proposed playing at cards with us, which after some time we accepted, and were near being stripped of every shilling we had in the world ; the landlord afterwards telling me, this person was one of those cheats that London abounds with, that goes under the denomination of *Money dropper*.

In the morning I got up and went to the Navy-office, which I entered, and saw crowds of young fellows walking below ; many of whom made no better appearance than myself. I consulted the physiognomy of each, and at last made up to one, whose countenance I liked, and asked if he could instruct me in the form of a letter which was to be sent to the board, to obtain an order for examination : He answered me that he would shew me the copy of what he had wrote for himself, by the direction of another, who knew the form, and accordingly pulled it out of his pocket for my perusal ;

sal ; and told me, that if I was expeditious, I might send it into the board before dinner, for they did no business in the afternoon. He then went with me to a coffee-house hard by, where I wrote the letter, which was immediately delivered to the messenger, who told me, I might expect an order to-morrow about the same time. Having transacted this piece of business, my mind was a good deal composed ; and as I had met with so much civility from this stranger, I desired further acquaintance with him, who informed me that he had passed for a third mate of a third rate, about four months ago, since which time he had constantly attended at the Navy-office, in hopes of a warrant. That now being utterly impoverished, his sole hope consisted in the promise of a friend lately come to town, to lend him a small matter, for a present to the Secretary ; without which he was persuaded he might wait a thousand years to no purpose. I conceived a mighty liking for this young fellow, which proceeded from the similitude of our fortunes : We spent the whole day together ; and as he lived at Wapping, I desired him to take share of my bed. Next day we returned to the Navy-office, where, after being called before the board and questioned about the place of my nativity and education, they ordered a letter to be made out for me, which, upon paying half a crown to the clerk, I received, and delivered into the hands of the clerk at Surgeon's-hall, together with a shilling for his trouble in registering my name. In a few days after I was to undergo an examination, which I accordingly did, and to the satisfaction of my examiners, and received my qualification sealed up, on paying the fees, which in the whole amounted to 1 ^{3s.} 6d.

I would

I would willingly have gone home immediately, but was told by my companions, that we must deliver our letters of qualification at the Navy-office before one o'clock, upon which we repaired thither, and gave them to the Secretary, who opened and read them, and I was mightily pleased to find myself qualified for second mate of a third rate. When he had stuck them all together on a file, one of our company asked if there were any vacancies; to which he answered no. Then I ventured to inquire if any ships were to be put in commission soon. At which he surveyed me with a look of ineffable contempt, and pushing us out of his office, locked the door without deigning us one word. I went home soon after this, in expectation of seeing Strap, who was now engaged by a peruke-maker in the neighbourhood, as his journeyman, at five shillings *per* week, besides bed and board. I met him; but he presented a figure to my eyes, that I could scarce believe real. In short this affectionate shaver, not having seen me for some time, had set out towards Surgeon's hall, inquiring for me there to no purpose; from thence he found his way to the Navy-office, where he could hear no tidings of me, because I was unknown to every body then present; he afterwards went upon 'Change, in hopes of seeing me upon the Scotch walk; but without any success. At last, being almost in despair of finding me, he resolved to ask every body he met in the street, if per chance any one could give him information about me. And actually put his resolution in practice, in spite of the scoffs, curses, and reproaches with which he was answered; until a blacksmith's prentice, seeing him stop a porter with a burden on his back, and hearing his question,

question, for which he received a hearty curse, called to him, and asked if the person he inquired after was not a Scotchman? Strap replied with great eagerness, Yes, and had on a brown coat with long skirts. The same, said the blacksmith, I saw him pass about an hour ago. Did you so? cried Strap, (rubbing his hands) Odd! I am very glad of that, which way went he? Towards Tyburn in a cart, (said he) if you make good speed you may get thither time enough to see him hanged. This piece of wit incensed my friend to such a degree, that he called the blacksmith scoundrel, and protested he would fight him for half a farthing. No, no, (said the other, stripping) I'll have none of your money; you Scotchmen seldom carry any about you, but I'll fight you for love. There was a ring immediately formed by the mob, and Strap finding he could not get off honourably without fighting, at the same time burning with resentment against his adversary, quitted his clothes to the care of the multitude, and the battle began with great violence on the side of Strap, who in a few minutes exhausted his breath and spirits on his patient antagonist, who sustained the assault with great coolness, till finding the barber quite spent, he returned the blows he had lent him with such interest, that Strap, after having received three falls on the bare stones, gave out, and allowed the blacksmith to be the better man. The victory being thus decided, it was proposed to adjourn to a cellar hard by, and drink as friends. But when my friend began to gather up his clothes, he perceived that some honest person or other had made free with his shirt, neckcloth, hat and wig, which were carried off; and probably his coat and waistcoat would have met with the same fate, had they

they been worth the stealing. It was in vain for him to make a noise, which only yielded mirth to the spectators; he was fain to get off in this manner, which he accomplished with much difficulty, and appeared before me all besmeared with blood and dirt. Notwithstanding this misfortune, such was his transport at finding me safe and sound, that he had almost stifled and stunk me to death with his embraces. As neither of us had dined, and the milk woman coming round at that instant, he went down stairs and brought up a quart, with a penny brick, on which we made a comfortable meal. He then shared his money with me, which amounted to eighteen pence, and left me, with an intention to borrow an old wig and hat of his friend the school-master.

He was no sooner gone, than I began to consider my situation with great uneasiness, and revolved all the schemes my imagination could suggest, in order to chuse and pursue some one that would procure me bread; for it is impossible to express the pangs I felt, when I reflected on the miserable dependence in which I lived, at the expence of a poor barber's boy. My pride took the alarm, and having no hopes of succeeding at the Navy-office, I came to a resolution of enlisting in the foot-guards next day, *coute qui coute*. This extravagant design, by flattering my disposition, gave great satisfaction, and I was charging the enemy at the head of my own regiment, when Strap's return interrupted my reverie. The school-master had made him a present of the tye wig which he wore when I was introduced to him, together with an old hat, whose brims would have overshadowed a Colossus. Though Strap had ventured to wear them in the dusk, he

did

did not chuse to entertain the mob by day ; therefore went to work immediately, and reduced them to a moderate size. While he was employed in this manner, he informed me, that a relation of his had spoke to a French apothecary, who wanted a journeyman ; and on recommendation, he would engage me, at fifteen pounds *per* year, bed and board. This news greatly rejoiced me, and I instantly went, and being admitted to the apothecary, gladly accepted his offers. In the mean time, Strap conveyed my baggage to the place allotted for me, which was a back room up two pair of stairs, furnished with a pallet for me to lie upon, a chair without a back, an earthen chamber-pot without a handle, a bottle by way of candlestick, and a triangular piece of glass instead of a mirror ; the rest of its ornaments having been lately removed to one of the garrets, for the conveniency of the servant of an Irish captain, who lodged on the first floor.

Next day, while I was at work in the shop, a bouncing damsel, well dressed, came in, on pretence of finding a vial for some use or other ; and taking an opportunity, when she thought I did not mind her, of observing me narrowly, went away with a silent look of disdain. I easily guessed her sentiments, and my pride took the resolution of entertaining the same indifference and neglect towards her. I soon learnt that this was my master's only daughter, who would have a very handsome fortune, on account of which, and her beauty, a great many young gentlemen made their addresses to her, that she had been twice on the brink of marriage, but disappointed by the stinginess of her father, who refused to part with a shilling as long

as he should live, for which reason the young lady did not behave to him with all the filial veneration that might be expected : In particular, she harboured the most perfect hatred for his countrymen, in which disposition her mother joined, who was an English woman ; and by the hints they dropped, I learned the grey mare was the better horse ; that she loved diversions ; and looked upon miss as her rival in all amusements, and parties of pleasure. Over and above this intelligence, I, of myself, soon made more discoveries ; Mr. Lavement's significant grins at his wife, while she looked another way, convinced me that he was not at all content with his lot ; and his behaviour in presence of the captain, made me believe his chief torment was jealousy. In the mean time my industry and knowledge gained me the good will of my master, who would often say in French, *Mardy ! c'est un bon Garcon*. He had a great deal of business ; but as he was mostly employed among his fellow refugees, his profits were small. However, his expence for medicines was not great, he being the most expert man at a succedaneum, of any apothecary in London, so that I have been sometimes amazed to see him, without the least hesitation, make up a physician's prescription, though he had not in his shop one medicine mentioned in it. Oyster-shells he could convert into crab's eyes ; common oil into oil of sweet almonds ; syrup of sugar into balsamic syrup ; Thames water into aqua cinnamoni ; turpentine into capivi ; and a hundred more costly preparations were produced in an instant, from the cheapest and coarsest drugs. And when any common thing was ordered for a patient, he always took care to disguise it in colour or taste,

or both, in such a manner, as that it could not possibly be known. In the mean while, I had reason to believe I had inspired one of the maids with tender sentiments for me; and one night when I thought every other person in the house asleep, I took the opportunity of the other maid's absence to avail myself of my conquest: Accordingly I got up, and explored my way in the dark to the garret, where she lay. I was ravished to find the door open, and moved softly to her bed side, transported with the hope of completing my wishes. But what horrors did I feel, when I found her asleep, fast locked in the arms of a man? I was upon the point of doing some rash thing, when the noise of a rat scratching behind the wainscot, put me to flight, and I was fain to get back to my own bed in safety. Whether this alarm had disordered my mind, or that I was led astray by the power of destiny, I know not; but instead of turning to the left, when I descended to the second story, I pursued the contrary course, and mistook the young lady's bed-chamber for my own. I did not perceive my mistake before I had run against the bed post; and then it was not in my power to retreat undiscovered; for the nymph being awake felt my approach, and with a soft voice bid me make less noise, lest the Scotch booby in the next room should over-hear us. This hint was sufficient to make me imagine she had made an assignation with captain O'Donnell; and as my passions, at any time high, were then in a state of exaltation, I was resolved to profit by my good fortune.

Without any more ceremony, therefore, I slipped into bed to this charmer, who gave me as favourable a reception as I could desire. Our conversation

versation was very sparing on my part, but she upbraided the person whom I represented, with his jealousy of me, whom she handled so roughly, that my resentment had well nigh occasioned a discovery more than once ; but I was consoled for her hatred of me by understanding from her own mouth, that it was now high time to salve her reputation by matrimony ; for she had reason to fear she could not much longer conceal the effects of their mutual intercourse. While I was meditating an answer to this proposal, I heard a noise in my room, like something heavy falling down upon the floor : Upon which, I started up, and creeping to the door of my chamber, observed by moon-light the shadow of a man groping his way out ; whereupon I retired to one side to let him pass, and saw him go down stairs as expeditiously as he could. It was an easy matter to divine that this was the captain, who having overslept himself, had got up at last to keep his assignation, and finding my door open, had entered into my apartment instead of that of his mistress, where I supplied his place. But finding his mistake, by falling over my chair, was afraid the noise might alarm the family, and for that reason made off, delaying the gratification of his desire till another opportunity. By this time I was satisfied, and instead of returning to the place from whence I came, retreated to my own castle, which I fortified by bolting the door ; and in the congratulation of my happiness fell asleep. But the truth of this adventure could not be long concealed from my young mistress, who next day came to an éclaircissement with the captain, upon his lamenting his last night's disappointment, and begging pardon for the noise he had made. Their mutual

chagrin, when they came to the knowledge of what had happened, may be easily conjectured, though each had a peculiar grief unfelt by the other; for she was conscious of having not only betraying to me the secrets of her commerce with him; but also, of having incensed me by the freedoms she had taken with my name, beyond a hope of reconciliation. On the other hand, his jealousy suggested, that her sorrow was all artifice; and that I had supplied his place with her own privacy and consent. That such was the situation of their thoughts, will appear in the sequel, for that very day she came into the shop, where I was alone, and fixing her eyes swimming in tears, upon me, sighed most piteously: But I was proof against her distress, by recollecting the epithets with which she had honoured me the night before, and believing that the good reception I enjoyed was destined for another. I therefore took no notice of her affliction; and she had the mortification to find her disdain returned fourfold. However, thenceforward she thought proper to use me with more complaisance than usual, knowing that it was in my power at any time to publish her shame. By these means my life became much more agreeable, and as I every day improved in my knowledge of the town, I shook off my awkward air by degrees, and acquired the character of a polite journeyman apothecary.

About this time, my friend Strap informed me of an offer he had to go abroad with a gentleman, in quality of *valet de chambre*, and at the same time assuring me, that whatever advantage he might propose to himself from this prospect, he could not bear the thoughts of parting from me; so much was he attached to my fortune. In spite

of all the obligations I owed this poor honest fellow, ingratitude is so natural to the heart of man, that I began to be tired of his acquaintance ; and now, that I had contracted other friendships which appeared more creditable, I was even ashamed to see a journeyman barber inquiring after me with the familiarity of a companion. I therefore, on pretence of consulting his welfare, insisted upon his accepting the proposal, which he at last determined to embrace, with great reluctance, and in a few days took his leave of me, shedding a flood of tears, which I could not behold without emotion. I now began to look upon myself as a gentleman in reality ; learned to dance of a Frenchman, whom I had cured of a fashionable distemper ; frequented plays during the holidays ; became the oracle of an ale-house, where every dispute was referred to my decision ; and at length contracted an acquaintance with a young lady, who found means to make a conquest of my heart, and upon whom I prevailed, after much attendance and solicitation, to give me a promise of marriage. As this beautiful creature passed for a rich heiress, I blessed my good fortune, and was actually on the point of crowning all my wishes by matrimony, when one morning I went to her lodgings, and her maid being abroad, took the privilege of a bridegroom to enter her chamber, where, to my utter confusion, I found her in bed with a man. Heaven gave me patience and presence of mind enough to withdraw immediately ; and I thanked my stars a thousand times for the happy discovery, by which I resolved to profit so much, as to abandon all thoughts of marriage for the future.

While I enjoyed myself at large in this temper of mind, Mr. Lavement let his first floor to my countryman and acquaintance 'Squire Gawky, who by this time had got a lieutenancy in the army; and in less than a fortnight, on pretence of going to a play with my master Lavement's daughter, they drove away together to the Fleet, where they were coupled; thence moved to a bagnio, where the marriage was consummated; and in the morning they came home, where they asked her father's and mother's blessing. The prudent parents, notwithstanding the precipitation with which it was carried on, did not think fit to refuse their approbation; for the apothecary was not ill pleased to find his daughter married to a young man of a good prospect, who had not mentioned to him one syllable on the article of her dowry; and his wife was rejoiced at being rid of a rival in her gallants, and a spy upon her pleasures. Nor was I without self-enjoyment at this event, when I reflected upon the revenge I had unwittingly taken upon my enemy, in making him a cuckold by anticipation. But I little dreamed what a storm of mischief was brewing against me, whilst I thus indulged myself. Gawky and his wife joined in a scheme to ruin my character, and get me discharged, which was effected as follows.

My master having several times missed large quantities of medicines, of which I could give no account, at last taxed me with having embezzled them. As I could only oppose my single asseveration to his suspicion, he told me one day, By gar, your vord not be give me de satisfaction, me find necessaire to chercher for my medicine; pardonnez moy, il faut chercher, me demand de clef of your coffre. He took the key, and mounted up to my chamber,

chamber, attended by the whole family ; but what was my horror and amazement, when opening my chest, I saw them pull out an handful of the things that were missing, and heard him pronounce, Ah ha, vous etes bien venues ; mardie, Mons. Roderique, you be fort innocent ! I had not power to utter one word in my own vindication, but stood silent, while every body present made their respective remarks on what appeared against me. Finding it impossible to vindicate my innocence, I left the house immediately, and went to consult some acquaintance I had acquired in my master's neighbourhood ; but my story had taken air, through the officiousness of the servants, and not one of my friends would vouchsafe me a hearing. Thus I found myself, by the iniquity of mankind, in a much more deplorable condition than ever ; for though I had been formerly as poor, my reputation was without blemish, and my health unimpaired till now ; but at present my good name was lost, my money gone, my friends were alienated, my body infected by a distemper contracted in the course of an amour ; and my faithful Strap, who only could yield me pity and assistance, absent, I knew not where.

I considered, however, that I must now suit my expence to my calamitous circumstances ; and with that view hired an apartment in a garret near St. Giles's, at the rate of nine-pence *per* week. In this place I resolved to perform my own cure, having first pawned three shirts to purchase medicines and support for the occasion.

One day when I sat in this solitary retreat, musing on the unhappiness of my fate, I was alarmed by a groan that issued from a chamber contiguous to mine, into which I immediately ran, and

found a woman stretched on a miserable truckle bed, without any visible signs of life. Having applied a smelling bottle to her nose, the blood began to revisit her cheeks, and she opened her eyes; but good heaven! what were the motions of my soul, when I discovered her to be the same individual lady; who had triumphed over my heart, and to whose fate I had almost been inseparably joined! Her deplorable situation filled my breast with compassion, and every tender idea reviving in my imagination, I flew into her embrace; she knew me immediately, and straining me gently in her arms, shed a torrent of tears, which I could not help encraving. At length, casting a languishing look at me, she pronounced with a feeble voice, Dear Mr. Random, I do not deserve this concern at your hands. I am a vile creature, who had a base design upon your person; suffer me to expiate that and all my other crimes by the miserable death, which will not fail to overtake me in a few hours. I encouraged her as much as I could, told her I forgave all the injury she had designed for me; and that although my circumstances were extremely low, I would share my last farthing with her. In the mean time, begged to know the immediate cause of that fit from which she had just recovered, and I would endeavour by my skill to prevent any more such attacks. She seemed very much affected with what I said, took my hand and pressed it to her lips, saying, You are too generous! I wish I could live to express my gratitude, but alas! I perish for want. Then shutting her eyes, relapsed into another swoon. Such extremity of distress must have awaked the most obdurate heart to sympathy and compassion: What effect then must it have on mine,

mine, who was naturally prone to every tender passion? I ran down stairs, and sent my landlady to a chymist's shop for some cinnamon water, while I returning to this unfortunate creature's chamber, used all the means in my power to bring her to herself, which, with much difficulty, I accomplished, and made her drink a glass of the cordial to recruit her spirits; then I prepared a little mulled red wine and a toast, which having taken, she found herself thoroughly revived, and informed me, that she had not tasted food for eight and forty hours before. As I was impatient to know the occasion and nature of her calamity, she gave me to understand that she had been bred up under the wings of an indulgent parent, who gave her an excellent education; that she had been courted by a young gentleman, and after leaving her mother's house, had been forced to become a woman of the town; that in the course of her adventures, she found herself dangerously infected with a distemper to which all of her class are particularly subject; that her malady gained ground every day, she was become loathsome to herself as well as to every one else, when she resolved to retire to some corner, where she might be cured with as little noise and expence as possible; that she had accordingly chosen this place of retreat, and put herself into the hands of an advertising doctor, who having fleeced her of all the money she had, or could procure, left her three days ago in a worse condition than that in which he found her; that except the clothes on her back she had pawned or sold every thing that belonged to her, to satisfy that rapacious quack, and quiet the clamour of her landlady, who still persisted in her threats to turn her out in-

to the street. After having moralized upon these particulars, I proposed that she should lodge in the same room with me, which would save some money: and assured her I would myself undertake her cure as well as my own, during which she should partake of all the conveniencies I could afford to myself. She embraced my offer with unfeigned acknowledgment, and I began to put it in practice immediately. I found, to my great satisfaction, in her, not only an agreeable companion, whose conversation greatly alleviated my chagrin, but also a careful nurse, who served me with the utmost fidelity and affection.

So much candour and good sense appeared in this lady's account of herself, that I made no scruple of believing every syllable of what she said; and expressed my astonishment at the variety of miseries she had undergone in so little time; for all her misfortunes had happened within the compass of two years. I compared her situation with my own, and found it a thousand times more wretched: I had endured hardships, 'tis true; but then, they were become habitual to me, and consequently, I could bear them with less difficulty. On the other hand, she had known and relished the sweets of prosperity, and without any extravagance of hope, entertained herself with the view of uninterrupted happiness through the whole scene of life. How fatal then, how tormenting, how intolerable must her reverse of fortune be! a reverse, that not only robs her of these external comforts, and plunges her into all the miseries of want, but also murders her peace of mind, and entails upon her the curse of eternal infamy! Of all professions I pronounced that of a courtesan the most deplorable.

She

She allowed my observation to be just in the main, but at the same time, affirmed, that notwithstanding the disgraces that had fallen to her share, she had not been so unlucky in the condition of a prostitute as many others of the same community. I have often seen (said she) while I strolled about the streets at midnight, a number of naked wretches reduced to rags and filth, huddled together like swine, in the corner of a dark alley ; some of whom, but eighteen months before, I had known the favourites of the town, rolling in affluence, and glittering in all the pomp of equipage and dress. And indeed the gradation is easily conceived ; the most fashionable woman of the town is as liable to contagion, as one in a much humbler sphere ; she infects her admirers, her situation is public, she is avoided, neglected, unable to support her usual appearance, which, however, she strives to maintain as long as possible ; her credit fails, she is obliged to retrench and become a night-walker, her malady gains ground, she tampers with her constitution, and ruins it ; her complexion fades, she grows nauseous to every body, finds herself reduced to a starving condition, is tempted to pick pockets, is detected, committed to Newgate, where she remains in a miserable condition, till she is discharged, because the plaintiff appears not to prosecute her. Nobody will afford her lodging ; the symptoms of her distemper are grown outrageous ; she sues to be admitted into an hospital, where she is cured at the expence of her nose ; she is turned out naked into the streets, depends upon the addresses of the lowest of mankind, is fain to allay the rage of hunger and cold with spirituous liquors, degenerates into a stage of brutal insensibility, rots, and dies upon a dunghill.

dunghill. Miserable wretch that I am! perhaps the same horrors are decreed for me! No, (cried she, after some pause) I shall never live to such extremity of distress! mine own hand shall open a way for my deliverance, before I arrive at that forlorn period! Her condition filled me with sympathy and compassion; I revered her qualifications, looked upon her as unfortunate, not criminal; and attended her with such care and success, that in less than two months, her health, as well as my own, was perfectly re-established. As we often conferred upon our mutual affairs, and interchanged advice, a thousand different projects were formed, which upon further canvassing, appeared impracticable. We would have gladly gone to service; but who would take us in without recommendation? At length an expedient occurred to her, of which she intended to lay hold; and this was, to procure with the first money she should earn, the homely garb of a country wench, go to some village at a good distance from town, and come up in a waggon, as a fresh girl for service; by which means she might be provided for in a manner much more suitable to her inclination than her present way of life.

I applauded the resolution of Miss Williams; but as for my own part I saw no resource but the army or navy, between which I hesitated so long, that I found myself reduced to a starving condition. My spirit began to accommodate itself to my beggarly fate, and I became so mean, as to go down towards Wapping, with an intention to inquire for an old school-fellow of mine, who (I understood) had got the command of a small coasting vessel, then in the river, and implore his assistance. But my destiny prevented this abject piece of behaviour;

our ; for as I crossed Tower-wharf, a squat tawney fellow, with a hanger by his side, and a cudgel in his hand, came up to me, calling, Yo ho ! brother, you must come along with me. As I did not like his appearance, instead of answering his salutation, I quickened my pace, in hopes of ridding myself of his company ; which he perceiving, whistled aloud, and immediately another sailor appeared before me, who laid hold of me by the collar, and began to drag me along. Not being of a humour to relish such treatment, I disengaged myself of the assailant, and with one blow of my cudgel, laid him motionless on the ground ; and perceiving myself surrounded in a trice, by ten or a dozen more, exerted myself with such dexterity and success, that some of my opponents were fain to attack me with drawn cutlasses ; and after an obstinate engagement, in which I received a large wound on the head, and another on my left cheek, I was disarmed, taken prisoner, and carried on board a pressing tender ; where, after being pinioned like a malefactor, I was thrust down into the hold, among a parcel of miserable wretches, the sight of whom well nigh distracted me. As the commanding officer had not humanity enough to order my wounds to be dressed, and I could not use my own hands, I desired one of my fellow captives who was unfettered, to take a handkerchief out of my pocket, and tie it round my head to stop the bleeding. He pulled out my handkerchief, ('tis true) but instead of applying it to the use for which I designed it, went to the grating of the hatchway, and with astonishing composure, sold it before my face for a quart of gin, with which he treated his companions. In the mean time, loss of blood, vexation, and want of food,

food, contributed, with the noisome stench of the place, to throw me into a swoon ; out of which I was recovered by a tweak of the nose, administered by the tar who stood sentinel over us, who at the same time regaled me with a draught of flip, and comforted me with the hopes of being put on board of the Thunder next day, where I should be freed from handcuffs, and cured of my wounds by the doctor. I no sooner heard him name the Thunder, than I asked if he had belonged to the ship long ; and he giving me to understand, he had belonged to her five years, I inquired if he knew lieutenant Bowling ? Know lieutenant Bowling, cried he, (whose name I afterwards found was Jack Rattlin) odds my life ! that I do ; and a good seaman he is, as ever slept upon fore-castle, and a brave fellow as ever crack't bisket ; none of your Guinea-pigs, nor your fresh water, wishy washy fair-weather fowls. Many a taught gale of wind has honest Tom Bowling and I weathered together. Here's his health with all my heart, whether he is a-lost or a-low, in heaven or in hell, all's one for that, he needs not be ashamed to shew himself. I was so much affected with this eulogium, that I could not refrain from telling him I was lieutenant Bowling's kinsman ; at which he expressed an inclination to serve me, and when he was relieved, brought some cold boiled beef in a platter, and biscuit, on which we supped plentifully, and afterwards drank another can of flip together.

The next day I was, with the other pressed men, put on board the Thunder, lying at the Nore. When we came along side, the mate who guarded us thither, ordered my hand-cuffs to be taken off, that I might get on board the easier ; which being perceived

ceived by some of the company who stood upon the gangboards to see us enter, one of them called to Jack Rattlin, who was busied in doing this kind of office for me; Hey, Jack, what Newgate galley have you boarded in the river as you came along? Have we not thieves enough among us already? Another observing my wounds, which still remained exposed to the air, told me my seams were uncaulked, and that I must be new payed. A third, seeing my hair clotted together with blood, as it were, into distinct cords, took notice that my bows were manned with red ropes instead of my side. A fourth asked me if I could not keep my yards square without iron braces? and in short, a thousand witticisms of the same nature were passed upon me, before I could get up the ship's side. After we had been all entered upon the books, I inquired of one of my ship mates where the surgeon was, that I might have my wounds dressed, and had actually got as far as the middle deck (for our ship carried eighty guns) in my way to the cock-pit, when I was met by the midshipman. He seeing me free from my chains, asked with an insolent air, who had released me? To this I foolishly answered with a countenance that too plainly declared the state of my thoughts, Whoever did it, I am persuaded did not consult you in the affair. I had no sooner uttered these words than he cried, D—n you, you saucy son of a b—h, I'll teach you to talk so to your officer. So saying, he bestowed on me several severe stripes, with a supple Jack he had in his hand; and going to the commanding officer, made such a report of me, that I was immediately put in irons by the master at arms, and a sentinel placed over me. Honest Rattlin, as soon as he

heard,

heard of my condition, came to me, and administered all the consolation he could, and then went to the surgeon in my behalf, who sent one of his mates to dress my wounds. This mate was no other than my old friend Thomson, with whom I became acquainted at the Navy-office, as before mentioned. If I knew him at first sight, it was not so easy for him to recognize me, disfigured with blood and dirt, and altered by the misery I had undergone. Unknown as I was to him, he surveyed me with looks of compassion, and handled my sores with great tenderness. When he had applied what he thought proper, and was about to leave me, I asked him if my misfortunes had disguised me so much, that he could not recollect my face? Upon this he observed me with great earnestness for some time, and at length protested he could not recollect one feature of my countenance. To keep him no longer in suspense, I told him my name; which, when he heard, he embraced me with affection, and professed his sorrow in seeing me in such a disagreeable situation. I made him acquainted with my story, and when he heard how inhumanly I had been used, he left me abruptly, assuring me he would see me again soon. I had scarce time to wonder at his sudden departure, when the master at arms came to the place of my confinement, and bid me follow him to the quarter-deck, where I was examined by the first lieutenant, who commanded the ship in the absence of the captain, touching the treatment I had received from the midshipman, who was present to confront me. I was soon discharged from confinement to make way for him, who was delivered to the master at arms to take his turn in the Bilboes. And this was
not

not the only satisfaction I enjoyed, for I was, at the request of the surgeon, exempted from all other duty, than that of assisting his mates in making and administering medicines to the sick. This good office I owed to the friendship of Mr. Thomson, who had represented me in such a favourable light to the surgeon, that he demanded me of the lieutenant, to supply the place of his third mate who was lately dead.

Mr. Thomson soon after shewed me the various parts of the ship, and treated me with some cold salt pork and excellent flip; but while we were discoursing, we heard a voice pronounce with great vehemence, in a strange dialect, The tevil and his tamn blow me from the top of Mounchdenny, if I go to him before there is something in my pelly; let his nose be as yellow as a saffron, or as plue as a pelt (look you) or as green as a-leek, 'tis all one. To this somebody answered, So it seems my poor mels-mate must part his cable for want of a little assistance. His foretop-sail is loose already; and besides, the doctor ordered you to overhaul him; but I see you don't mind what your master says. Here he was interrupted with Splutter and vons, you lousy tog, who do you call my master? get you gone to the toctor, and tell him my birth, and my education, and my abilities; and moreover, my behaviour is as coot as his. Cot pless my soul! toes he think, or conceive, or imagine, that I am a horse, or an afs, or a goat, to trudge packwards and forwards, and upwards and downwards, and by sea and by land, at his will and pleasures? Here Mr. Thomson let me know that the person we heard was Mr. Morgan, the first mate, who was just come on board from the hospital, where he had been

been with sick people. At the same time, I saw him come into the birth. He was a short thick man, with a face garnished with pimples, a snub nose turned up at the end, an excessive wide mouth, and little fiery eyes, surrounded with skin, puckered up in innumerable wrinkles. My friend immediately made him acquainted with my case, when he regarded me with a very lofty look, but without speaking, set down a bundle he had in his hand, and approached the cupboard, which when he had opened, he exclaimed in a great passion, Cot is my life! all the pork is gone, as I am a christian! Thomson then gave him to understand, that as I had been brought on board half famished, he could do no less than entertain me with what was in the locker; and the rather, as he had bid the steward enter me in the mess. Whether this disappointment made Mr. Morgan more peevish than usual, or he really thought himself too little regarded by his fellow mate, I know not, but after some pause, he went on in this manner—Mr. Thomson, perhaps you do not use me with all the good manners and complaisance, and respect (look you) that pecomes you, pecause you have not vouchsafed to advise with me in this affair. I have, in my time (look you) been a man of some weight, and substance, and consideration, and have kept house and home, and paid scot and lot, and the king's taxes; ay, and maintained a family to poot. And moreover, also, I am your senior, and your elder, and your petter, Mr. Thomson. My elder I'll allow you to be, but not my better (cried Thomson, with some heat.) Cot is my saviour, and witness too (said Morgan, with great vehemence) that I am more elder, and therefore more petter

petter by many years than you. Fearing this dispute might be attended with some bad consequence, I interposed, and told Mr. Morgan, I was very sorry for having been the occasion of any difference between him and the second mate ; and that rather than cause the least breach in their good understanding, I would eat my allowance by myself, or seek admission into some other company. But Thomson with more spirit than discretion (as I thought) insisted upon my remaining where he had appointed me ; and observed that no man possessed of generosity and compassion, would have any objection to it, considering my birth and talents, and the misfortune I had of late so unjustly undergone. This was touching Mr. Morgan on the right key, who protested with great earnestness, that he had no objection to my being received in the mess ; but only complained, that the ceremony of asking his consent was not observed. As for a shentleman in distress (said he, shaking me by the hand) I lose him as I lose my own powels ; for, Cot help me ! I have had vexations enough upon my own pack.— And as I afterwards learned, in so saying he spoke no more than what was true ; for he had been once settled in a very good situation in Glamorganshire, and was ruined by being security for an acquaintance. All differences being composed, he united his bundle, which consisted of three bunches of onions, and a great lump of Cheshire cheese, wrapt up in a handkerchief ; and taking some biscuit from the cupboard, fell to with a keen appetite, inviting us to a share of the repast. When he had fed heartily on this homely fare, he filled a large cup made of cocoa-nut-shell, with brandy, and drinking it off, told us, Prandy was the best menstruum

menstruum for onion and sheese. His hunger began appeased, he began to shew a great deal of good humour; and being inquisitive about my birth, no sooner understood that I was descended of a good family, than he discovered a particular good will to me on that account, deduced his own pedigree in a direct line from the famous Caractacus, king of the Britons, who was first the prisoner and afterwards the friend of Claudius Cæsar. Perceiving how much I was reduced in point of linen, he made me a present of two good ruffled shirts, which with two of check Mr. Thomson gave me, enabled me to appear with decency. Mean while the sailor, whom Mr. Morgan had sent to the doctor, brought a prescription for his mess-mate, which, when Mr. Welshman had read, he got up to prepare it; and asked if the man was tead or alive. Dead! (replied Jack) if he was dead he would have no occasion for doctor's stuff. No, thank God, death has not as yet boarded him, but they have been yard arm and yard arm these three glasses. Are his eyes open? (continued the mate) His starboard eye (said the sailor) is open, but fast jammed in his head; and the haulyards of his under jaw are giving way. Passion of my heart! (cried Morgan) the man is as pad as one would desire in a summer's day! Did you feel his pulses? To this the other replied with Anan. Upon which this Cambro Britain, with great earnestness and humanity, ordered the tar to run to his mess-mate and keep him alive till he should come with the medicine, and then (said he) you shall peradventure behold what you shall see. The poor fellow with great simplicity ran to the place where the sick man lay, but in less than a minute returned with a woful countenance, and told us his comrade

comrade had struck. Morgan hearing this, exclaimed, Mercy upon my salvation! why did you not stop him till I came? Stop him (said the other) I hailed him several times, but he was too far on his way, and the enemy had got possession of his close quarters; so that he did not mind me. Well, well, (said he) we all owe heaven a teath. Go your ways, you ragamuffin, and take an example, and a warning, look you, and repent of your misdeeds. So saying, he pushed the seaman out of the birth.

While I was busied with my friend in practice, the doctor chanced to pass by the place where we were, and stopping to observe me, appeared very well satisfied with my method of application; and afterwards sent for me to his cabin, where, having examined me touching my skill in surgery, and the particulars of my fortune, interested himself so far in my behalf, as to procure a warrant for me, seeing I had been already found qualified at surgeon's hall, for the station I now filled on board; and this he the more cordially engaged in, when he understood I was nephew to lieutenant Bowling, for whom he expressed a particular regard.

While I lived tolerably easy, in expectation of preferment, I was not altogether without mortifications, which I not only suffered from the rude insults of the sailors, and petty officers, among whom I was known by the name of *Loblolly Boy*; but also from the disposition of Morgan, who, though friendly in the main, was often very troublesome with his pride, which expected a good deal of submission from me, and delighted in recapitulating the favours I had received at his hands.

Mean

58 THE ADVENTURES OF

Mean while we weighed anchor, arrived at the Downs, and took the benefit of the first easterly wind to go round to Spithead; where having received on board provisions for six months, we sailed from St Helens, in the grand fleet bound for the West-Indies, on the ever memorable expedition of Carthagera.

It was not without great mortification I saw myself on the point of being transported to such a distant and unhealthy climate, destitute of every convenience that could render such a voyage supportable; and under the dominion of an arbitrary tyrant, whose command was almost intolerable. However, as these complaints were common to a great many on board, I resolved to submit patiently to my fate, and contrive to make myself as easy as the nature of the case would allow. We got out of the channel with a prosperous breeze, which died away, leaving us becalmed about fifty leagues to the westward of the Lizard: But this state of inaction did not last long; for next night our main-top-sail was split by the wind, which in the morning encreased to a hurricane. I was awakened by a most terrible din, occasioned by the play of the gun carriages upon the decks above, the creaking of the cabins, the howling of the wind through the shrouds, the confused noise of the ship's crew, the pipes of the boatswain and his mates, the trumpets of the lieutenants, and the clanking of the chain pumps. While I considered this scene with equal terror and astonishment, one of the main braces broke, by the shock whereof two sailors were flung from the yard's arm into the sea, where they perished, and poor Jack Rattlin thrown down upon the deck, at the expence of a broken leg. Morgan
and

and I ran immediately to his assistance, and found a splinter of the shin-bone thrust by the violence of the fall through the skin. As this was a case of too great consequence to be treated without the authority of the doctor, I went down to his cabin, to inform him of the accident, as well as to bring up dressings, which we always kept ready prepared. He examined the fracture and the wound, and concluded from a livid colour extending itself upon the limb, that a mortification would ensue, resolved to amputate the leg immediately. This was a dreadful sentence to the patient, who recruiting himself with a quid of tobacco, pronounced, with a woful countenance, What! is there no remedy, doctor? must I be dock'd? can't you splice it? Assuredly, doctor Macshane (said the first mate) with submission and deference, and veneration to your superior abilities, and opportunities, and stations, (look you) I do apprehend and conjecture, and aver, that there is no occasion nor necessity to smite off this poor man's leg. God Almighty bless you, dear Welshman! (cried Rattlin) may you have fair wind and weather wheresoever you're bound, and come to an anchor in the road of heaven at last. Mackshane, very much incensed at his mate's differing in opinion from him so openly, answered, that he was not bound to give an account of his practice to him; and in a peremptory tone, ordered him to apply the tourniquet. At the sight of which, Jack starting up, cried, Avaft avast! d—n my heart, if you clap your nippers to me, till I know wherefore. Mr. Random, won't you lend a hand towards saving of my precious limb? Odd's heart, if lieutenant Bowling was here, he would not suffer Jack Rattlin's leg to be chopped

off like a piece of old junk. This pathetic address to me, joined to my inclination to serve my honest friend, and the reasons I had to believe there was no danger in delaying the amputation, induced me to declare myself of the first mate's opinion, and affirm that the preternatural colour of the skin, was owing to an inflammation occasioned by a contusion, and common in all such cases, without any indication of an approaching gangrene. Morgan, who had a great opinion of my skill, manifestly exulted in my fellowship, and asked Thomson's sentiments of the matter, in hopes of strengthening our association with him too; but he being of a meek disposition, and either dreading the enmity of the surgeon, or speaking the dictates of his own judgment in a modest manner, espoused the opinion of Macshane, who by this time, having consulted with himself, determined to act in such a manner, as to screen himself from censure; and at the same time revenge himself on us for our arrogance in contradicting him. With this view he demanded to know if we would undertake to cure the leg at our peril; that is, be answerable for the consequence. To this Morgan replied, that the lives of his creatures are in the hands of Cot alone, and it would be great presumption in him to undertake for an event that was in the power of his Maker, no more than the doctor could promise to cure all the sick to whom he administered his assistance; but if the patient would put himself under our direction, we should do our endeavour to bring his distemper to a favourable issue, to which, at present, we saw no obstruction. I signified my concurrence, and Rattlin was so overjoyed, that shaking us both by the hands, he swore no body else

else should touch him ; and if he died, his blood should be upon his own head. Mr. Macshane, flattering himself with the prospect of our miscarriage, went away, and left us to manage it as we should think proper : Accordingly having sawed off part of the splinter that stuck through the skin, we reduced the fracture, dressed the wound, applied the eighteen-tailed bandage, and put the leg in a box, *secundum artem*. Every thing succeeded according to our wish, and we had the satisfaction of not only preserving the poor fellow's leg, but likewise of rendering the doctor contemptible among the ship's company, who had all their eyes upon us during the course of the cure, which was completed in six weeks.

In the mean time the storm subsided into a brisk gale, that carried us into the warm latitudes, where the weather became intolerable, and the crew very sickly. The doctor left nothing unattempted towards the completion of his vengeance against the Welshman and me. He went among the sick, under pretence of inquiring into their grievances, with a view of picking up complaints to our prejudice ; but finding himself frustrated in that expectation, by the good will we had procured from the patients by our diligence and humanity, he took the resolution of listening to our conversation, by hiding himself behind the canvas that surrounded our birth ; here too he was detected by the boy of our mess, who acquainted us with this piece of behaviour ; and one night, while we were picking a large bone of salt beef, Morgan discerned something stir against our hangings, which immediately interpreting to be the doctor, he tipped me the wink, and pointed to the place, where I could evidently perceive

ceive somebody standing; upon which I snatched up the bone, and levelled it with all my force at him, saying, Whoever you are, take that for your curiosity. It had the desired effect, for we heard the listener tumble down, and afterwards crawl to his own cabin. I applauded myself much for this feat, which turned out one of the most unlucky exploits of my life, Mackishane from that night marking me out for destruction. About a week after, as I was going my rounds among the sick, I was taken prisoner, and carried to the poop by the master at arms, where I was loaded with irons, and stapled to the deck, on pretence that I was a spy on board, and had conspired against the captain's life. How ridiculous soever this imputation was, I did not fail to suffer by it all the rigour that could be shewn to the worst of criminals, being exposed in this miserable condition to the scorching heat of the sun by day, and the unwholsome damps by night, during the space of twelve days, in which time I was neither brought to trial, nor examined touching the probability of the charge. I had no sooner recovered the use of my reflection, which had been quite overthrown by this accident, than I sent for Thomson, who, after condoling with me on the occasion, hinted to me, that I owed this misfortune to the hatred of the doctor, who had given in an information against me to the captain, in consequence of which I was arrested, and all my papers seized. While I was cursing my capricious fate, I saw Morgan ascend the poop, guarded by two corporals, who made him sit down by me, that he might be pinioned in the same machine. Notwithstanding my situation, I could scarcely refrain from laughing at the countenance of my fellow prisoner, who, without

without speaking one word, allowed his feet to be enclosed in the rings provided for that purpose; but when they prepared to fasten him on his back, he grew outrageous, and drawing a large cut-throat razor from his side pocket, threatened to rip up the belly of the first man who should approach him, in order to treat him in such an unworthy manner. They were preparing to use him very roughly, when the lieutenant on the quarter-deck, called up to them to let him remain as he was. He then crept towards me, and taking me by the hand, bid me put my trust in Cot. And looking at Thomson, who sat by us trembling, with a pale visage, told him, there were too more rings for his feet, and he should be glad to find him in such good company. But it was not the intention of our adversary to include the second mate in our fate: Him he expected to be his drudge in attending the sick, and if possible, his evidence against us: With this view he sound-ed him afar off, but finding his integrity incorruptible he harraressed him so much, out of spite, that in a short time this mild creature grew weary of his life; and the very next morning, when the hour of visitation came round, this unhappy young man was missing, and after strict search, supposed to have gone overboard in the night; which was certainly the case.

The news of this event affected my fellow prisoner and me extremely, as our unfortunate companion had justly acquired, by his amiable disposition, the love and esteem of us both; and the more we regretted his untimely fate, the greater horror we conceived for the villain who was undoubtedly the occasion of it. This abandoned miscreant did

not discover the least symptom of concern for Thomson's death, although he must be conscious to himself, of having driven him by ill usage to that fatal resolution ; but he desired the captain to set Morgan and me at liberty to look after the patients. But I could not persuade the Welshman to accept of this indulgence, he persisting in his obstinacy to remain in irons until he should be discharged by a court martial, which he believed would also do him justice on his enemies. At length I represented to him the precarious issue of a trial, the power and interest of his adversaries, and flattered his revenge with the hope of wreaking his resentment with his own hands upon Mackshane after our return to England. This last argument had more weight with him than all the rest, and prevailed upon him to repair with me to the cock-pit, which I no sooner entered, than the idea of my departed friend presented itself to my remembrance, and filled my eyes with tears.

The keys of our chests and lockers being sent to us by the doctor, we detained the messenger until we had examined the contents ; and my fellow-mate finding all his Cheshire cheese consumed to a crust, his brandy exhausted, and his onions gone, was seized with a fit of choler, which he discharged on Mackshane's man in oaths and execrations, threatening to prosecute him as a thief. The fellow swore in his turn that he never had the keys in his possession till that time, when he received them from his master, with orders to deliver them to us. As Cot is my judge (cried Morgan) and my salvation, and my witness, whosoever has pilfered my provision is a lousy, peggarly, rascally knave ! and by the soul of my grand sire ! I will impeach,
and

and accuse, and indict him of roppery, if I did but know who he is. Had this happened at sea, where we could not repair the loss, in all probability this descendant of Cadwallader would have lost his wits entirely: but when I observed, how easy it would be to make up for this paltry misfortune, he became more calm, and reconciled himself to the occasion.

Our fleet having joined another that waited for us, lay at anchor about a month in the harbour of Port-Royal in Jamaica; at length we set sail, and arrived in a bay to the windward of Carthagena, where we came to an anchor, and lay at our ease ten days longer. At last, however, we weighed and anchored again somewhat nearer the harbour's mouth, where we made shift to land our marines, who encamped on the beach in despite of the enemy's shot, which knocked a good many of them on the head.

We then set about erecting a fascine battery to cannonade the principal fort of the enemy, and in something more than three weeks, it was ready to open. That we might do the Spaniards as much honour as possible, it was determined, in a council of war, that five of our largest ships should attack the fort on one side, while the battery plied it on the other; strengthened with two mortars, and twenty four cohorns.

Accordingly, the signal for our ship to engage, among others, was hoisted, we being advertiled the night before, to make every thing clear for that purpose: and in so doing, a difference happened between captain Oakhum and his well beloved cousin and counsellor Mackshane, which had well nigh terminated in an open rupture. The

doctor, who had imagined there was no more danger of being hurt by the enemy's shot in the cockpit than in the centre of the earth, was lately informed that a surgeon's mate had been killed in that place, by a cannon ball from two small forts that were destroyed before the disembarkation of our soldiers; and therefore insisted upon having a platform raised for the convenience of the sick and wounded in the after hold, where he deemed himself more secure than on the deck above. The captain, offended at this extraordinary proposal, accused him of pusillanimity, and told him there was no room in the hold for such an occasion; or if there was, he could not expect to be indulged more than the rest of the surgeons of the navy, who used the cockpit for that purpose: Fear rendering Mackshane obstinate, he persisted in his demand, and shewed his instructions, by which it was authorized: The captain swore these instructions were dictated by a parcel of lazy poltroons who were never at sea; but was obliged to comply, and sent for the carpenter to give him orders about it: But before any such measure could be taken, our signal was thrown out, and the doctor compelled to trust his carcase in the cockpit, where Morgan and I were busy in putting our instruments and dressings in order.

Our ship, with the others destined for this service, immediately weighed, and in less than half an hour came to an anchor before the castle of Bocca Chica, with a spring upon our cable. The cannonading (which indeed was terrible!) began. The surgeon, after having crossed himself, fell flat on the deck; and the chaplain and purser, who were stationed with us, in quality of assistants, followed

lowed his example, while the Welshman and I sat upon a chest looking at one another with great discomposure, scarce able to refrain from the like prostration.

Having cannonaded the fort, during the space of four hours, we were all ordered to slip our cables, and sheer off; but next day the engagement was renewed, and continued from the morning till the afternoon, when the enemy's fire from Bocca Chica slackened, and towards evening was quite silenced. A breach being made on the other side by our land battery, large enough to admit a middle sized baboon, provided he could find means to climb up to it, our general proposed to give the assault that very night, and actually ordered a detachment on that duty: Providence stood our friend upon this occasion, and put it into the hearts of the Spaniards to abandon the fort, which might have been maintained by resolute men to the day of judgment, against all the force we could exert in the attack. The taking of which made us masters of the outward harbour, and occasioned great joy among us; but of all the consequences of the victory, none was more grateful than plenty of fresh water, after we had languished five weeks on the allowance of a purser's quart *per diem* for each man, in the Torrid Zone, where the sun was vertical, and the expence of bodily fluid so great, that a gallon of liquor could scarce supply the waste of twenty-four hours; especially as our provisions consisted of putrid salt beef, to which the sailors gave the name of Irish horse.

After having put garrisons into the forts we had taken, and re-embarked our soldiers and artillery, which detained us more than a week, we ventured
up

up to the mouth of the inner harbour, guarded by a large fortification on one side, and a small redoubt on the other, both of which were deserted before our approach, and the entrance of the harbour blocked up by several old galleons that the enemy had sunk in the channel. We made shift, however, to open a passage for some ships of war, that favoured the second landing of our troops, at a place called La Quinta, not far from the town; where, after a faint resistance from a body of Spaniards, who opposed their disembarkation, they encamped with a design of besieging the castle of St. Lazar, which overlooked and commanded the city. We accordingly attacked that castle, but were forced to retreat with great loss; the remains of our army were then re-embarked, and our conductors finding things in a bad situation, perceived it was high time to relinquish our conquest, which we did, after having rendered their artillery useless, and blown up their walls with gun powder.

Meanwhile, our ship was ordered to be heaved down, victualled and watered, for her return to England; and in a few weeks, was under sailing orders, and I was in hopes of re-visiting my native country in very short time, when the admiral's surgeon came on board, and sending for Morgan and me to the quarter-deck, gave us to understand there was a great scarcity of surgeons in the West-Indies, that he was commanded to detain one mate out of every great ship that was bound for England; and desired us to agree among ourselves, before the next day at that hour, which of us should stay behind. I resolved to comply with a good grace, and next day, when we were ordered to throw dice, told Morgan he need not trouble himself, for
I would

I would voluntarily submit to the admiral's pleasure. This frank declaration was commended by the gentleman, who assured me, it should not fare the worse with me for my resignation: Indeed he was as good as his word, and that very afternoon, procured a warrant, appointing me surgeon's mate of the Lizard sloop of war, which put me on a footing with every first mate in the service.

My ticket being made out, I put my chest and bedding on board a canoe that was along-side, and having shook hands with honest Jack Rattlin, who was bound for Greenwich-hospital, I took my leave of Morgan with many tears, after we had exchanged our sleeve buttons as remembrances of each other. As there was not one sick person in the ship, I got leave to go ashore next day, with the gunner, who recommended me to a Jew, that bought my ticket, at the rate of 40 *per cent.* discount; and having furnished myself with what necessaries I wanted, returned on board in the evening, and to my great surprise, found my old antagonist, the midshipman, walking upon deck. Tho' I did not fear his enmity, I was shocked at his appearance; and communicated my sentiments on that subject to Mr. Tomlins, the surgeon, who told me, that Cramply, by the dint of some friends about the admiral, had procured a commission constituting him lieutenant on board the Lizard; and advised me, now he was my superior officer, to behave with some respect towards him, or he would find a thousand opportunities of using me ill.

In less than a week we sailed on a cruise, and having got round the east end of the island, had the good fortune to take a Spanish Barcolongo, with her prize, which was an English ship, bound for

for Bristol, that sailed from Jamacia a fortnight before, without convoy. All the prisoners who were well, were put on shore, on the north side of the island; the prizes were manned with Englishmen, and the command of the Barcolongo given to my friend the master's mate, with orders to carry them into Port Morant, and there to remain until the Lizard's cruise should be ended, at which time she would touch at the same place, in her way to Port Royal.

When my patients were all in a fair way, my companion and commander, whose name was Brayl, carried me up the country to the house of a rich planter, with whom he was acquainted, where we were sumptuously entertained, and in the evening set out on our return to the ship. When we had walked about a mile by moon light, we perceived a horseman behind us, who coming up, wished us *good even*, and asked which way we went. His voice, which was quite familiar to me, no sooner struck my ear, than in spite of all my resolution and reflection, my hair bristled up, and I was seized with a violent fit of trembling, which Brayl mis-interpreting, bid me be under no concern, for he would stand by me. I told him he was mistaken in the cause of my disorder; and addressing myself to the person on horseback, said, I could have sworn by your voice, that you were a dear friend of mine, if I had not been certain of his death. To this, after some pause, he replied, There are many voices, as well as faces, that resemble one another; but pray, what was your friend's name? I satisfied him in that particular, and gave a short detail of the melancholy fate of Thomson, not without many sighs and some tears. He was at great pains

pains to convince me of his being the individual person whom I regretted, and promised to explain his sudden disappearance from the Thunder, and to account for his being at present in the land of the living. This he acquitted himself of, by informing us, that with a determination to rid himself of a miserable existence, he had gone in the night-time to the head, while the ship was on her way, from whence he slipped down, as softly as he could, by the bows, into the sea, where, after he was heartily ducked, he began to repent of his precipitation, and as he could swim very well, kept himself above water, in hopes of being taken up by some of the ships astern; that in this situation he hailed a large vessel, and begged to be taken in, but was answered, that she was a heavy sailer, and therefore they did not chuse to lose time, by bringing to; however, they threw an old chest overboard, for his convenience, and told him, that some of the ships astern would certainly save him; that no other vessel came within sight or cry of him for the space of three hours, during which time he had the mortification of finding himself in the middle of the ocean alone, without support or resting place but what a few crazy boards afforded; till at last, he discerned a small sloop steering towards him, upon which he set up his throat and had the good fortune to be heard, and rescued from the dreary waste by their boat, which was hoisted out on purpose. I was no sooner brought on board (continued he) than I fainted, and when I recovered my senses, found myself in bed, regaled with a most nauseous smell of onions and cheese, which made me think, at first, that I was in my own hammock, along side of honest Morgan, and that all which

which had passed was no more than a dream. Upon inquiry, I understood that I was on board of a schooner belonging to Rhode Island, bound for Jamaica, with a cargo of geese, pigs, onions, and cheese; and that the master's name was Robertson, by birth a North Britain, whom I knew at first sight to be an old school-fellow of mine. When I discovered myself to him, he was transported with surprise and joy, and begged to know the occasion of my misfortune, which I did not think fit to disclose, because I knew his notions with regard to religion, were very severe and confined; therefore contented myself with telling him, I fell over-board by accident; but made no scruple of explaining the nature of my disagreeable station, and of acquainting him with my determined purpose never to return to the Thunder man of war. Although he was not of my opinion in that particular, knowing that I must lose my clothes, and what pay was due to me unless I went back to my duty; yet when I described the circumstances of the hellish life I led, under the tyrannic sway of Oakhum and Mackshane, he changed his sentiments, and conjured me with great vehemence and zeal to lay aside all thoughts of rising in the navy; and that he might shew how much he had my interest at heart, undertook to provide for me in some shape or other, before he should leave Jamacia. This he performed to my heart's desire, by recommending me to a gentleman of fortune, with whom I have lived ever since, in quality of surgeon and overseer to his plantations. He and his lady are now at Kingston, so that I am, for the present, master of this house, to which, from my soul, I bid you welcome, and hope you will favour me with your company during

ing the remaining part of the night. I needed not a second invitation ; but Mr. Brayl, who was a diligent and excellent officer, could not be persuaded to sleep out of the ship : However he supped with us, and after having drank a cheerful glass, set out for the vessel, which was not above three miles from the place, escorted by a couple of stout negroes, whom Mr. Thompson ordered to conduct him. Never were two friends more happy in the conversation of one another, than we, for the time it lasted : I related to him the particulars of our attempt upon Carthagera, of which he had heard but an imperfect account ; and he gratified me with a narrative of every little incident of his life since we parted. He assured me, it was with the utmost reluctance, he could resist his inclination of coming down to Port-Royal to see Morgan and me, of whom he had heard no tidings since the day of our separation ; but that he was restrained by the fear of being detained as a deserter. He told me, that when he heard my voice in the dark, he was almost as much surprised as I was at seeing him afterwards ; and in the confidence of friendship, disclosed a passion he entertained for the only daughter of the gentleman with whom he lived, who, by his description, was a very amiable young lady, and did not disdain his addresses ; that he was very much favoured by her parents, and did not despair of obtaining their consent to the match, which would at once render him independent of the world. I congratulated him on his good fortune, which he protested should never make him forget his friend ; and towards morning we betook ourselves to rest.

Next day he accompanied me to the ship, where Mr. Brayl entertained him at dinner, and having spent the afternoon together, he took his leave of us in the evening, after he had forced upon me ten pistoles, as a small token of his affection. In short while we staid here, we saw one another every day, and generally eat at the same table, which was plentifully supplied by him with all kinds of poultry, butchers meat, oranges, limes, lemons, pine-apples, Madeira wine, and excellent rum ; so that this small interval of ten days was by far the most agreeable period of my life.

At length, the Lizard arrived ; and as my patients were all fit for duty, they and I were ordered on board of her, where I understood from Mr. Tomlins, that there was a dryness between the lieutenant and him, on my account ; that rancorous villain having taken the opportunity of my absence, to fill the captain's ears with a thousand scandalous stories to my prejudice ; among other things affirming, that I had been once transported for theft, and that when I was in the Thunder man of war I had been whipped for the same crime.—The surgeon on the other hand, having heard my whole story from my own mouth, defended me strenuously, and in the course of that good-natured office, recounted all the instances of Crampley's malice against me, while I remained on board of that ship, which declaration, while it satisfied the captain of my innocence, made the lieutenant as much my defender's enemy as mine. This infernal behaviour of Crampley, with regard to me, added such fuel to my former resentment, that at certain times, I was quite beside myself with the desire of revenge, and was even tempted to pistol him on the quarter-

quarter-deck ; though an infamous death must inevitably have been my reward. But the surgeon, who was my confidant, argued against such a desperate action so effectually, that I stifled the flame which consumed me for the present, and resolved to wait a more convenient opportunity. In the meantime, that Mr. Tomlins might be the more convinced of the wrongs I had suffered by this fellow's slander, I begged he would go and visit Mr. Thomson, whose wonderful escape I had made him acquainted with, and inquire of him into the particulars of my conduct, while he was my fellow mate. This the surgeon complied with, more through a curiosity to see a person whose fate had been so extraordinary, than to confirm his good opinion of me, which he assured me was already firmly established. He therefore set out for the dwelling place of my friend, with a letter of introduction from me ; and being received with all the civility and kindness I expected, returned to the ship, not only satisfied with my character, beyond the power of doubt or insinuation, but also charmed with the affability and conversation of Thomson, who loaded him and me with presents of fresh stock, liquors, and fruit. As he would not venture to come and see us on board, lest Crampley should know and detain him, when the time of our departure approached, I obtained leave to go and bid him farewell.— After we had vowed an everlasting friendship, he pressed upon me a purse with four double doubloons, which I refused as long as I could, without giving umbrage ; having cordially embraced each other, I returned on board, where I found a small box, with a letter directed for me, to the care of Mr. Tomlins. Knowing the superscription to be of

Thomson's hand-writing, I opened it with some surprize, and learned that this generous friend, not contented with loading me with the presents already mentioned, had sent for my use and acceptance, half a dozen fine shirts, and as many linen waistcoats and caps, with twelve pair of new thread stockings. Being thus provided with money, and necessaries for the comfort of life, I began to look upon myself as a gentleman of some consequence, and felt my pride dilate apace.

Next day we sailed for Port Royal, where we arrived safely with our prizes ; and as there was nothing to do on board, I went on shore, and having purchased a lace waistcoat, with some other clothes at an auction, made a shining figure for some days among the taverns, where I ventured to play a little at hazard, and came off with fifty pistoles in my pocket. Mean while our captain was promoted to a ship of twenty guns, and the command of the *Lizard* given to a man turned of fourscore, who had been lieutenant since the reign of king William to this time, and notwithstanding his long service, would have probably died in that situation, had he not employed some prize-money he had lately received, to make interest with his superiors. My friend Brayl was also made an officer about the same time, after he had served in quality of midshipman and mate five and twenty years. Soon after these alterations, the admiral pitched upon our ship to carry home dispatches for the ministry ; accordingly we set sail for England, having first scrubbed her bottom, and taken in provision and water for the occasion.

We had been seven weeks at sea, when the gunner told Crampley, who had succeeded to the
command

command of the vessel, that by his reckoning we must be in soundings, and desired that he would order the lead to be heaved. Crampley swore, he did not know how to keep the ship's way, and therefore he would not give himself the trouble. Accordingly we continued our course all that afternoon and night, without shortening sail, although the gunner pretended to discover Scilly light; and next morning protested in form against the captain's conduct; for which he was put in confinement. We discovered no land all the day, and Crampley was still so infatuated as to neglect sounding: But at three o'clock in the morning, the ship struck, and remained fast on a sand bank. This accident alarmed the whole crew; the boat was immediately hoisted out, but as we could not discern which way the shore lay, we were obliged to wait for daylight. In the mean time, the wind increased, and the waves beat against the sloop with such violence that we expected she would have gone to pieces. The gunner was released and consulted: He advised the captain to cut away the mast, in order to lighten her; this was performed without success. During this disaster I clothed myself in my best apparel, girded on my hanger, stuck my pistols loaded in my belt, and came upon deck, with a resolution of taking the first opportunity to go on shore, which, when the day broke, appeared at the distance of three miles a-head. Crampley finding his efforts to get the ship off ineffectual, determined to consult his own safety, by going into the boat, which he had no sooner done, than the ship's company followed so fast, that she would have sunk along side, had not some one wiser than the rest cut the rope and put off. But before this hap-

pened, I had made several attempts to get in, and was always baulked by the captain, who was so eager in excluding me, that he did not mind the endeavours of any other person. Enraged at this inhuman partiality, and seeing the rope cut, I pulled one of my pistols from my belt, and cocking it, swore I would shoot any man who should presume to obstruct my entrance. So saying, I leaped with my full exertion, and got on board of the boat with the loss of the skin of one of my shins. I chanced in my descent to overturn Crampley, who no sooner got up than he struck at me several times with a cutlass, and ordered the men to throw me overboard ; but they were too anxious about their own safety to mind what he said. Though the boat was very deeply loaded, and the sea terribly high, we made shift to get upon dry land in less than an hour after we parted from the sloop. As soon as I got foot on *terra firma*, my indignation, which had boiled so long within me, broke out against Crampley, whom I immediately challenged to single combat, presenting my pistols that he might take his choice : He took one without hesitation, and before I could cock the other, fired in my face, throwing the pistol after the shot. I felt myself stunned, and imagining the bullet had entered my brain, discharged mine as quick as possible, that I might not die unrevenged ; then flying upon my antagonist, knocked out several of his fore teeth with the butt-end of the piece ; and would certainly have made an end of him with that instrument, had he not disengaged himself, and seized his cutlass, which he had given to his servant when he received the pistol. Seeing him armed in this manner, I drew my hanger, and having flung my pistol at his head,

head, closed with him in a transport of fury, and thrust my weapon into his mouth, which it enlarged on one side to his ear. He staggered some paces back ; but I followed close, and with one stroke cut the tendons of the back of his hand, upon which his cutlafs dropt, and he remained defenceless. I know not with what cruelty my rage might have inspired me, if I had not at that instant been felled to the ground by a blow on the back part of my head, which deprived me of all sensation. When I received the use of my understanding, I found myself alone in a desolate place, stripped of my clothes, money, watch, buckles, and every thing but my shoes, stockings, breeches and shirt. What a discovery must this be to me, who but an hour before, was worth sixty guineas in cash !— With some difficulty however I got upon my legs, and having examined my body, found I had received no other injury than two large contused wounds, one on the fore and another on the hinder part of my head. I directed my course, towards a small cottage I perceived, and in the road picked up a seaman's old jacket, which I suppose the thief who dressed himself in my clothes, had thrown away ; this I put on, and as my natural heat revived, my wounds, which had left off bleeding, burst out afresh ; so that finding myself exhausted, I was about to lie down in the fields, when I discovered a barn on my left hand, within a few yards of me : thither I made shift to stagger, and finding the door open went in, but saw nobody ; upon which I threw myself upon a truss of straw, hoping to be soon relieved by some person or other. I had not lain here many minutes, when I saw a countryman come in with a pitchfork in his hand, which he was

upon the point of thrusting into the straw that concealed me, and in all probability would have done my business, had I not uttered a dreadful groan, after having essayed in vain to speak. This melancholy note alarmed the clown, who started back, and discovering a body all besmeared with blood, stood trembling, with the pitchfork extended before him, his hair erect, his eyes staring, his nostrils dilated, and his mouth wide open. At length an old man arrived, who seeing the other in such a posture, cried mercy upon en ! the leaads bewitched ! why Dick, beest thou besay'd thyself ? Dick, without moving his eyes from the object which terrified him, replied, O vather ! vather ! here be either the devil or a dead mon : I don't know which o'en, but a groans woundily. The father, whose eye-sight was none of the best, pulled out his spectacles, and having applied them to his nose, reconnoitred me over his son's shoulder : but no sooner did he behold me, than he was seized with a fit of shaking, even more violent than Dick's, and with a broken accent addressed me thus : in the name of the Vather, Zun, and Holy Ghost, I charge you, anyoubeen Satan, to begone to the Red Zea ; but an you be a moordered mon, speak, that you may have a christom burial. I was exceedingly mortified to find myself in danger of perishing through the ignorance and cowardice of these clowns ; and felt my spirits decay apace, when an old woman entered the barn, and with great intrepidity advanced to the place where I lay, saying, if it be the devil I fearen not, and for a dead mon a can do us no harm. When she saw my condition, she cried, here be no devil, but in yourn fool's head. Here be a poor miserable wretch

wretch, bleeding to death, and if he dies, we must be at the charge of burying him; therefore, Dick, go vetch the old wheel-barrow and puten in, and carry him to good man Hodge's back-door, he is more able than we to lay out money upon poor vagrants. Her advice was taken, and immediately put in execution: But Hodge resembled the Jew more than the good Samaritan, and ordered me to be carried to the house of the parson, whose business it was to practise as well as to preach charity. When I was set down at the vicar's gate, he fell into a mighty passion, and threatened to excommunicate him who sent, as well as those who brought me, unless they would move me immediately to another place. About this time I fainted with the fatigue I had undergone, and afterwards understood that I was bandied from door to door through a whole village, no body having humanity enough to administer the least relief to me, until an old woman, who was suspected of witchcraft by the neighbourhood, hearing of my distress, received me into her house, and having dressed my wounds, brought me to myself with cordials of her own preparing. I was treated with great care and tenderness by this grave matron, who, after I had recovered some strength, desired to know the particulars of my last disaster. This piece of satisfaction I could not refuse to one who had saved my life, therefore related all my adventures without exaggeration or reserve. She seemed surprised at the vicissitudes I had undergone, and drew a happy presage of my future life, from my past sufferings, then launched out into the praise of adversity with so much ardour and good sense, that I concluded she was a

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person who had seen better days, and conceived a longing desire to hear her story. She perceived my drift by some words I dropped, and smiling, told me, there was nothing entertaining or extraordinary in the course of her fortune; but however, she would communicate it to me, in consideration of the confidence I had reposed in her. This she accordingly performed. She then promised to recommend me as a servant to a single lady of her acquaintance, who lived in the neighbourhood with her nephew, who was a young fox-hunter of great fortune, where I might be very happy, provided I could bear with the disposition and manners of my mistress, which were somewhat whimsical and particular. I was fain to embrace this humble proposal, because my affairs were desperate; and in a few days was hired by this lady, to serve in quality of her footman; being represented by my hostess, as a young man, who having been sent to sea by his relations against his inclinations, was shipwrecked and robbed, which had increased his disgust to that way of life so much, that he rather chose to go to service on shore than enter himself on board of any other ship. I soon after repaired to the place of her habitation, and was introduced by the waiting woman, to the presence of my lady, who had not before seen me. She sat in her study, with one foot on the ground, and the other upon a high stool at some distance from her seat; her sandy locks hung down in a disorder I cannot call beautiful, from her head, which was deprived of its coil, for the benefit of scratching with one hand, while she held the stump of a pen in the other.

About

About four in the afternoon, I was ordered to lay the cloth, and place two covers, which I understood was for my mistress and her niece, whom I had not as yet seen. Though I was not very dexterous at this operation, I performed it pretty well for a beginner, and when dinner was upon the table, saw my mistress approach, accompanied by the young lady, whose name for the present shall be Narcissa. So much sweetness appeared in the countenance and carriage of this amiable apparition, that my heart was captivated at first sight, and while dinner lasted I gazed upon her without intermission. When she spoke, I listened with pleasure ; but when she spoke to me, my soul was thrilled with an extasy of tumultuous joy ! I was even so happy as to be the subject of their conversation : For Narcissa having observed me, said to her aunt, I see your new footman is come. Then addressing herself to me, asked, with ineffable complacency, if I was the person who had been so cruelly used by robbers ? When I satisfied her in this, she expressed a desire of knowing the particulars of my fortune both before and since my being shipwrecked : Hereupon (as Mrs. Sagely had counselled me) I told her, that I had been bound apprentice to the master of a ship, contrary to my inclination, which ship had foundered at sea ; that I and four more, who chanced to be on deck when she went down, made shift to swim on shore, where my companions, after having overpowered me, stript me to the shirt, and left me, as they imagined, dead of the wounds I received in my own defence : Then I related the circumstances of my being found in a barn, with the inhuman treatment I met with from the country people and parson ; which I perceived

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ceived drew tears from the charming creature's eyes ! when I had finished my recital, my mistress said, *Ma foy ! le garcon est bien fait !* To which opinion Narcissa assented, with a compliment to my understanding in the same language, that flattered my vanity extremely.

During this season of love and tranquillity, my muse, which had lain dormant so long, awoke, and produced several small performances on the subject of my flame ; but as it concerned me nearly to remain undiscovered in my real character and sentiments, I was under a necessity of mortifying my desire of praise, by confining my works to my own perusal and applause. In the mean time I strove to insinuate myself into the good opinion of both ladies ; and succeeded so well, by my diligence and dutiful behaviour, that in a little time, I was at least a favourite servant ; and frequently enjoyed the pleasure of hearing myself mentioned in French and Italian, with some degree of warmth and surprise, by the dear object of all my wishes, as a person who had so much of the gentleman in my appearance and discourse, that she could not for her soul treat me like a common lacquey. My prudence and modesty were not long proof against these compliments. I penned the following little piece, which I ventured to shew to my mistress.

On Celia playing on the harpsicord and singing.

When Sappho struck the quiv'ring wire,
The throbbing breast was all on fire :
And when she rais'd the vocal lay,
The captive soul was charm'd away !
But had the nymph, possess'd with these
Thy softer, chaster power to please ;
Thy beauteous air of sprightly youth,

Thy

Thy native smiles of artless truth ;
 The worm of grief, had never prey'd
 On the forsaken, love sick maid :
 Nor had she mourned an hapless flame,
 Nor dashed on rocks her tender frame.

My mistress paid me a cold compliment on the
 versification, which, she said, was elegant enough,
 but the subject beneath the pen of a true poet. I
 was extremely nettled at her indifference, and look-
 ed at Narcissa, who by this time had joined us, for
 her approbation, but she declined giving her opi-
 nion, protesting she was no judge of those matters.
 In the afternoon, however, the waiting-maid as-
 sured me, that Narcissa had expressed her approba-
 tion of my performance with great warmth. I was
 elated to an extravagant pitch at this intelligence,
 and immediately transcribed a fair copy of my Ode,
 which was carried to the dear charmer, together
 with another on the same subject, as follows :

Thy fatal shafts unerring move,
 I bow before thine altar, love !
 I feel thy soft, resistless flame
 Glide swift through all my vital frame !
 For while I gaze my bosom glows,
 My blood in tides impetuous flows,
 Hope, fear and joy alternate roll,
 And floods of transports 'whelm my soul !
 My fault'ring tongue attempts in vain
 In smoothing murmurs to complain,
 My tongue some secret magic ties,
 My murmurs sink in broken sighs !
 Condemn'd to nurse eternal care,
 And ever drop the silent tear,
 Unheard I mourn, unknown I sigh,
 Unfriended live, unpitied die !

At certain intervals, my ambition would revive ; I would despise myself for my tame resignation to my fordid fate, and revolve an hundred schemes for assuming the character of a gentleman, to which I was intitled by birth and education. In these fruitless suggestions, time stole away unperceived, and I had already remained eight months in the station of a footman, when an accident happened, that put an end to my servitude, and for the present banished all hopes of succeeding in my love.

Narcissa went one day to visit Miss Thicket, who lived with her brother, within less than a mile of our house, and was persuaded to walk home in the cool of the evening, accompanied by Sir Timothy, who having a good deal of the brute in him, was instigated to use some unbecoming familiarities with her, encouraged by the solitariness of a field through which they passed. The lovely creature was incensed at his rude behaviour, for which she reproached him in such a manner, that he lost all regard for decency, and actually offered violence to this pattern of innocence and beauty. But heaven would not suffer so much goodness to be violated ; and sent me, who passing by accident near the place, was alarmed with her cries; to her succour, I flew like lightning to her rescue, which he perceiving, quitted his prey, and drew his hanger to chastise my presumption. My indignation was too high to admit one thought of fear, so that rushing upon him, I struck his weapon out of his hand, used my cudgel so successfully, that he fell to the ground, and lay, to all appearance, without sense. Then I turned to Narcissa, who had swooned, and sitting down by her, gently raised her head, and supported it on my bosom, while with my hand
around

around her waist, I kept her in that position. In a little time the blood began to revisit her face, she opened her enchanting eyes, and said, with a look full of tender acknowledgment, Dear John, I am eternally obliged to you! So saying, she made an effort to rise, in which I assisted her, and she proceeded to the house, leaning upon me all the way. When we arrived at the house, Narcissa assured me, she would exert all her influence in protecting me from the revenge of Thicket, and likewise engage her aunt in my favour. At the same time, pulling out her purse, offered it as a small consideration for the service I had done her. But I stood too much upon the punctilios of love to incur the least suspicion of being mercenary, and refused the present, saying, I had merited nothing by barely doing my duty. She seemed astonished at my disinterestedness, and blushed: I felt the same suffusion, and with a down-cast eye and broken accent, told her, I had one request to make, which if her generosity would grant, I should think myself fully recompensed for an age of misery. She changed colour at this preamble, and with great confusion, replied, she hoped my good sense would hinder me from asking any thing she was bound in honour to refuse, and therefore bid me signify my desire. Upon which I kneeled, and begged to kiss her hand. She immediately, with an averted look, stretched it out: I imprinted on it an ardent kiss, and bathing it in my tears, cried, Dear Madam, I am an unfortunate gentleman, who loves you to distraction, but would have died a thousand deaths, rather than make this declaration under such a servile appearance, were he not determined to yield to the rigour of his fate, to fly from your bewitch-

ing

ing presence, and bury his presumptuous passion in eternal silence. With these words I rose and went away, before she could recover her spirits so far as to make any reply. My first care was to go and consult Mrs. Sagely, with whom I had maintained a friendly correspondence ever since I left her house. When she understood my situation, the good woman, with real concern, condoled on my unhappy fate, and approved of my resolution to leave the country.

I followed her advice, and escaped by the benefit of a dark night, to the sea-side, where while I ruminated on my next excursion, I was all of a sudden surrounded by armed men, who, having bound my hands and feet, bid me make no noise, on pain of being shot, and carried me on board of a vessel, which I soon perceived to be a smuggling cutter. This discovery gave me some satisfaction at first, because I concluded myself safe from the resentment of Sir Timothy: But when I found myself in the hands of ruffians, who threatened to execute me for a spy, I should have thought myself happily quit for a year's imprisonment, or even transportation. It was however determined that I should be set on shore at Boulogne in France, and left to find my passage back to England, as I should think proper. Although this favourable determination gave me great pleasure, the apprehension of being robbed would not suffer me to be perfectly at ease; To prevent this calamity, as soon as I was untied, I tore a small hole in one of my stockings, into which I dropped six guineas, reserving half a piece and some silver in my pocket, that finding something, they might not be tempted to make any inquiry. This was a very necessary precaution, for when we came within sight of the

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French shore, one of the smugglers told me, I must pay for my passage. To this I replied, that my passage was none of my own seeking ; therefore they could not expect a reward from me for transporting me into a strange country by force.—Damn me ! (said the outlaw) none of your palaver ; but let me see what money you have got. So saying, he thrust his hand into my pocket without any ceremony, and emptied it of the contents : Then casting an eye at my hat and wig, he took them off, and clapping his own on my head, declared that a fair exchange was no robbery.

I resolved to take my leave of these desperadoes, without much ceremony, and went into a cabaret or public house, after we came on shore, with an intention of taking some refreshment. In the kitchen, five Dutch sailors sat at breakfast, with a large loaf, a firkin of butter, and a keg of brandy on the table, the bung of which they often applied to their mouths with great perseverance and satisfaction. At some distance from them, I perceived another person in the same garb, sitting in a pensive solitary manner, entertaining himself with a whiff of tobacco, from the stump of a pipe, as black as jet. I approached this forlorn tar, and notwithstanding the alteration of dress, and disguise of a long beard, I discovered in him my long lost and lamented uncle and benefactor, lieutenant Bowling! Good heaven! what were the agitations of my soul, between the joy of finding again such a valuable friend, and the sorrow of seeing him in such a low condition ! The tears gushed down my cheeks, I stood motionless and silent for some time ; at length, recovering the use of speech, exclaimed, Gracious God ! Mr. Bowling ! My uncle no sooner heard his

his name mentioned, than he started up, crying with some surprise, Holloa! and after having looked at me stedfastly, without being able to recollect me, said, Did you call me, brother? I told him, I had something extraordinary to communicate, and desired him to give me a few minutes hearing in another room; but he would by no means consent to this proposal, saying, Avaft there, friend; none of your tricks upon travellers; if you have any thing to say to me, do it above-board; you need not be afraid of being over-heard; here are none who understand our Lingo. Though I was loth to discover myself before company, I could no longer refrain from telling him, I was his own nephew, Roderick Random. I then gave him a detail of all my adventures and sufferings, which affected him more than I could have imagined; and concluded with telling him that he might return to England when he would, to solicit his affairs, without danger or molestation. He was wonderfully pleased at this piece of information, of which however, he said he could not at present avail himself, for want of money to pay for his passage to London. This objection I soon removed, by putting five guineas into his hand, and telling him, I thought myself extremely happy in having an opportunity of manifesting my gratitude to him in his necessity.

When our repast was ended, we walked down to the harbour, where we found a cutter that was to sail for Deal in the evening, and Mr. Bowling agreed for his passage, and the time fixed for my uncle's embarking being come, I accompanied him to the harbour, and saw him on board. We parted without tears, after we had embraced and wished one another all manner of prosperity.

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The next day, being walking in the fields, I saw a company of soldiers with their wives and children dancing and feasting. Being invited to a share I sat down, and never made a more comfortable meal. When our repast was ended, we got up again to dance; and now that I found myself refreshed, I behaved to the admiration of every body; the serjeant in particular, expressed so much regard for me, and described the pleasures of a soldier's life, with so much art, that I began to listen to his proposal of enlisting me in the service; and having weighed the circumstances *pro* and *con*, signified my consent, and was admitted into the regiment of Picardy.

It was not long before we received orders to join several more regiments, and march with all expedition into Germany, in order to reinforce Marechal Duc de Noailles, who was then encamped with his army on the side of the river Main, to watch the motions of the English, Austrians, and Hessians, under the command of the Earl of Stair. It is impossible to describe the hunger and thirst I sustained, and the fatigue I underwent in a march of so many hundred miles; during which I was so much chafed with the heat and motion of my limbs, that in a very short time the inside of my thighs and legs were deprived of skin, and I proceeded in the utmost torture.

One day while we enjoyed a halt, and the soldiers with their wives had gone out to dance, according to custom, my comrade staid at home with me on pretence of friendship, and insulted me with his pity and consolation! He told me, though I was young and tender at present, I should soon be seasoned to the service; and he did not doubt but I should

should have the honour to contribute in some measure to the glory of the king. When I looked upon the contemptible object that pronounced these words, I was amazed at the insatiation that possessed him; and could not help expressing my astonishment at the absurdity of a rational being, who thinks himself highly honoured in being permitted to encounter abject poverty, oppression, famine, disease, mutilation, and evident death, merely to gratify the vicious ambition of a prince, by whom his sufferings were disregarded, and his name utterly unknown. The Frenchman provoked at the little deference I paid to the kingly name, lost all patience, and reproached me in such a manner, that I clenched my fist, with an intention to give him a box on the ear. Perceiving my design, he started back, and gave me to understand that a Frenchman never forgave a blow; therefore if I was not weary of my life, I would do him the honour of measuring his sword with mine, like a gentleman. I took his advice, and followed him to the field hard by, where I was ashamed at the pitiful figure of my antagonist, who was a poor, little, shivering creature, decrepid with age, and blind of one eye. But I soon found the folly of judging from appearances; being at the second pass wounded in the sword hand, and disarmed with such a jerk, that I thought the joint dislocated. I was no less confounded than enraged at this event, especially as my adversary insisted upon my asking pardon for my presumption in affronting his king and him. This I would not comply with, but told him, it was a mean condescension, which no gentleman in his circumstances ought to propose, and none in my situation perform; and that if he persisted in
his

his demand, I would claim satisfaction with my musket, at which weapon we should be more upon a par, than with the sword, of which he seemed so much master.

He was disconcerted at this declaration, to which he made no reply, but repaired to the dancers, among whom he recounted his victory with many exaggerations and gasconades; while I, taking up my sword, went to my quarters and examined my wound, which I found was of no consequence. The same day, an Irish drummer, having heard my misfortune, visited me, and after having consoled me on the chance of war, gave me to understand that he was master of the sword, and would in a very short time instruct me so thoroughly in that noble science, that I should be able to chastise the old gascon for his insolent boasting at my expence. This friendly office he proffered on pretence of the regard he had for his countrymen; but I afterwards learned the true motive was no other than a jealousy he entertained, of a correspondence between the Frenchman and his wife, which he did not think proper to resent in person. Be this as it will, I accepted his offer, and practised his lessons with such application, that I soon believed myself a match for my conqueror. We soon after fell out, when I gave him a kick on the breech, which overturned him in an instant. He started up and drawing his sword, attacked me with great fury: Several people interposed, but when he informed them of its being an affair of honour, they retired, and left us to decide the battle by ourselves. I sustained his onset with little damage, having only received a small scratch on my right shoulder, and seeing his breath and vigour almost exhausted, assaulted

faulted him in my turn, closed with him, and wrested his sword out of his hand in the struggle. Having thus acquired the victory, I desired him to beg his life; to which he made no answer, but shrugged up his shoulders to his ears, expanded his hands, elevated the skin of his forehead and eyebrows, and depressed the corners of his mouth, in such a manner, that I could scarce refrain from laughing aloud at his grotesque appearance. That I might, however, mortify his vanity, I thrust his sword up to the hilt in something that lay smoking on the plain, and joined the rest of the soldiers with an air of tranquillity and indifference.

There was nothing more of moment attempted by either of the armies during the remaining part of the campaign, which being ended, the English marched back to the Netherlands; part of our army was detached to French Flanders, and our regiment ordered to winter-quarters in Champagne. It was the fate of the grenadier company, to which I now belonged, to lie at Rheims, where I found myself in the utmost want of every thing. My pay, which amounted to five sols a day, so far from supplying me with necessaries, being scarce sufficient to procure a wretched subsistence, to keep soul and body together; so that I was by hunger and hard duty, brought down to the meagre condition of my fellow-soldiers, and my linen reduced from three tolerable shirts, to two pair of sleeves and necks, the bodies having been long ago converted into spatterdashies.

One day, while I stood sentinel at the gate of a general officer, a nobleman came to the door, followed by a gentleman in mourning, to whom I heard him say, you may depend on my good offices.

This assurance was answered by a low bow of the person in black, who turning to go away, discovered to me the individual countenance of my old friend and adherent Strap. I was so much astonished that I lost the power of utterance, and before I could recollect myself, he was gone, without taking any notice of me. But I took the first opportunity of asking the porter if he knew the gentleman to whom the Marquis spoke. The Swiss told me his name was Monsieur d'Estrapes, that he had been *valet de chambre* to an English gentleman lately deceased, and that he was very much regarded by the Marquis for his fidelity to his master, between whom and that nobleman a very intimate friendship had subsisted. Nothing could be more agreeable to me than this intelligence. I went to his lodging, and only desired the servant of the house, to tell Monsieur d'Estrapes, that I begged the honour of half an hour's conversation with him. When I entered his chamber, he returned my bow with great civility, and endeavoured to disguise his fear. I told him (in French) I had business for his private ear, and the valet being withdrawn, asked if his name was d'Estrapes, to which he answered, with a faltering tongue, The same at your service. I then desired he would do me the honour to look at me, which he no sooner did, than he started back and cried in English, O Jesus! sure it can't! No, 'tis impossible! I smiled at his interjections, saying, I suppose you are too much of a gentleman to own your friend in adversity. When he heard me pronounce these words in our own language, he leaped upon me in a transport of joy, hung about my neck, and blubbered like a great school boy who has been whipt. Then observing

my dress, he set up his throat, crying, O L—d ! O L—d ! that ever I should live to see my dearest friend reduced to the condition of a foot soldier in the French service ! Then wringing my hand, he said, it makes my heart bleed to see you in that garb ! Come, you shall dine with me, and I will tell you something you will be glad to hear ; with tears in his eyes, than he ran to the chest of drawers, and taking out some linen, presented to me a very fine ruffled holland shirt, and cambrick neck-cloth, assuring me, he had three dozen of the same kind at my service.

After dinner, I desired to know the particulars of his peregrination, and he satisfied me in a few words by giving me to understand that he had lived a year at Paris with his master, who having acquired the language, as well as the fashionable exercises, made the tour of France and Holland, during which excursion he was so unfortunate as to meet with three of his own countrymen on their travels, in whose company he committed such excesses, that his constitution failed, and he fell into a consumption ; that by the advice of physicians he went to Montpellier for the benefit of good air, and recovered so well in six weeks, that he returned to Rheims, seemingly in good health, where he was carried off in ten days, to the unspeakable sorrow of all who knew him, and especially of Strap, who had been very happy in his service, and given such satisfaction, that his master on his death-bed, recommended him to several persons of distinction, for his diligence, sobriety, and affection, and left him by will, his wearing apparel, gold watch, sword, rings, ready money, and all the moveables he had in France, to the value of three hundred pounds,

pounds, which I now (said he) in the sight of God and man, surrender to your absolute disposal. My brain was almost turned with this sudden change of fortune, which I could scarcely believe real ; however, I positively refused this proffer of my friend, and put him in mind of being a soldier ; at which he started, crying, Gadso ! that's true, we must procure your discharge. In the mean time, we enjoyed ourselves over a bottle of Burgundy, and spent the evening in concerting schemes for our future conduct.

Early in the morning, I went to my friend, who addressed me in these words ; Well, Mr. Random, a lucky thought may come into a fool's head, sometimes. As we have not money sufficient to maintain us during a tedious expectation, it is my opinion, that a bold push must be made ; and I see none so likely to succeed as your appearing in the character of a gentleman (which is your due) and making your addresses to some lady of fortune who can render you independent at once. I have clothes in my possession, that a Duke need not be ashamed to wear. Let us take a trip to Paris, and set out for England, where I intend to do myself the honour of attending you in quality of valet. This will save you the expence of a servant, shaving, and dressing ; and I doubt not but by the blessing of God, we shall bring matters to a speedy and fortunate issue. Extravagant as this proposal was, I listened to it with pleasure, because it flattered my vanity, and indulged a ridiculous hope I began to entertain of inspiring Narcissa with a mutual flame.

I now put on the gentleman of figure, attended by my honest friend, who was contented with the station of my valet. I visited the Louvre, examin-

ed the gallery of Luxemburg, and appeared at Versailles. During the month I spent at Paris, I went several times to court, the Italian opera, and play-house, danced at a masquerade, and saw every thing remarkable in and about that capital. After which we set out for England by the way of Flanders, passed through Brussels, Ghent, and Bruges, and took shipping at Ostend, from whence in fourteen hours we arrived at Deal, hired a post-chaise, and in twelve hours more got safe to London.

As soon as we alighted at the inn, I dispatched Sirap to inquire about my uncle, at Wapping; and he returned with an account of his having gone to sea, mate of a merchant-ship, after a long and unsuccessful attendance at the admiralty; where the interest he depended upon, was not sufficient to reinstate him, or recover the pay that was due to him when he quitted the Thunder.

My next care was to introduce myself into a set of good acquaintance; for which purpose, I frequented the Bedford coffee-house, where I got acquainted with Doctor Wagtail, and several persons of genius and merit, with whom I constantly associated, and spent my time very agreeably. Among these was Mr. Banter, a professed wit, who offered to introduce me to a relation of his, the celebrated Melinda; observing at the same time, that she was a reigning toast, worth ten thousand pounds. This piece of information made my heart bound with joy, and I discovered great eagerness to accept the proposal; upon which he assured me I should dance with her at the next assembly, if he had any influence in that quarter. He gave me to understand at the same time, that she

she was an incorrigible coquette, who would grant the same favour to any young fellow in England, of a tolerable appearance, merely to engage him among the herd of her admirers; that she was of a cold insensible disposition, dead to every passion but vanity, and so blind to merit, that he would lay any wager, the wealthiest fool would carry her at last. I attributed a good deal of this intelligence to the satirical turn of my friend, and trusted so much to my own accomplishments, as to believe no woman could resist the ardour of my addresses.

Full of this confidence, I repaired to Hampstead, in company with Billy Chatter, my Lord Hobble, and doctor Wagtail. Here I saw a very brilliant assembly, before whom I had the honour to walk a minuet with Melinda, who charmed me with her frank manner of receiving me, and easiness of behaviour.

While we advanced together, I observed a rival, Mr. Bragwell, at one end of the room, encircled with a cluster of beaux, to whom he talked with great vehemence, casting many big looks at me, from time to time: I guessed the subject of his discourse, and as soon as I had handed my partner to her seat, strutted up to the place where he stood, and cocking my hat in his face, demanded aloud, if he had any thing to say to me. He answered with a sullen tone, Nothing, at present, Sir, and turned about upon his heel. Well, (said I) you know where I am to be found at any time. His companions stared at one another, and I returned to the lady, whose features brightened at my approach, and immediately a whisper ran thro' the whole room; after which, so many eyes were turned upon me, that I was ready to sink with confusi-

on. When the ball broke up, I led her to her coach, and, like a true French gallant, would have got up behind it, in order to protect her from violence on the road; but she refused my offer, and expressed her concern that there was not an empty seat for me within it.

When I was ready to go abroad next day, Strap brought me a letter directed *To Mr. Random, Esq. Thos.*—Which, upon opening, I found contained a challenge, couched in these very extraordinary terms;

S I R,

WHEREAS I am informed that you make love to Miss Melinda Goosetrap, This is to let you know, that she is under promise of marriage to me; and that I am at this present writing, at the back of Montague-house, with a pair of good pistols in my hand, and if you will keep your appointment, I will make your tongue confess (after the breath is out of your body) that you do not deserve her as well as

Yours, &c.

Rourk O'Regan,

I guessed from the stile and subscription of this billet, that my rival was a true Milesian, and was not a little uneasy at the contents, especially that part, where he asserts his right to my mistress by promise, a circumstance I did not know how to reconcile to her penetration. However, I immediately loaded my pistols, and went to the place appointed, where I found a tall raw-boned man, wrapped up in a shabby great coat, over which his own hair descended in a leathern queue from his head, that was covered with a greasy hat trimmed with a tarnished *pointa d'Espagne*. He no sooner perceived

perceiving me advancing, than he pulled a pistol from his bosom, and presenting at me, snapt it. Alarmed at this rude salutation, I made a stand, and before he could adjust his other piece, fired one of mine at him, without doing any damage. By this time he was ready with his second, that flashed in the pan without going off: Upon which he called, with a true Tipperary cadence, Fire away, honey. And began to hammer his flint with great deliberation. But I was resolved to make use of the advantage Fortune had given me; and therefore slept up, without throwing away my fire, desiring him to ask his life, or prepare for another world; but the stout Hibernian refused to condescend, and complained bitterly of my having quitted my ground before he could return my shot, saying, I ought to go back to my station, and let him have an equal chance with me. I could not forbear laughing to excess, at the simplicity of my rival, who did not seem to relish my mirth; but began to be very serious: Upon which I took notice of his dishabille, and professing sorrow at seeing a gentleman reduced, slipped two guineas into his hand, at the sight of which, he threw away his pistols, and hugging me in his arms, cried, Arrah, by Jasus, now, you are the best friend I have met with these seven long years. When I had suffered some minutes in his embrace, he quitted me, and picking up his rusty arms, wished the devil might burn him if ever he should give me any farther trouble about woman-kind.

In the afternoon, I waited on Melinda, who received me with great kindness and familiarity, and laughing excessively at my adventure with the Irishman. Having made ourselves merry at the ex-

pence of this poor admirer, I seized the opportunity of her mother's going out of the room, and introduced my own passion, which I recommended to her with all the ardour and eloquence I was master of. But she heard every thing I said without discovering the least emotion; and other company came in, before she would vouchsafe one serious reply.

I soon became acquainted with a good many people of fashion, and spent my time in the modish diversions of the towns, such as plays, operas, masquerades, drums, assemblies and puppetshews, chiefly in company with Melinda. At last, finding myself unable to support the expence of this amour much longer, I was determined to bring the matter to a crisis; and one evening, complained of her indifference, and pressed her to disclose her sentiments of matrimony to me. She let me know with a careless air, that she had no objection to my person, and if I could satisfy her mother in other particulars, I should not find her averse to the match. I then waited on the mother, and with great formality demanded the daughter in marriage: The good lady behaved with great state and civility; thanked me for the honour I intended her family, and said, her lawyer should confer with mine upon the matter; and in the mean time, she desired I would favour her with the perusal of my rent-roll. Notwithstanding the vexation I was under, I could scarce forbear laughing in her face, at the mention of my rent-roll, which was, indeed, a severe piece of satire upon my pretensions. I frankly owned I had no landed estate; and told her, that I could not exactly specify the sum I was master of, but that I would take an opportunity of satisfying her on that head very soon.

It was not long before I took my leave, and returned to my lodgings, persuaded I had nothing more to expect from that quarter. I was confirmed in this opinion next day, when I went back, with a view of explaining myself more fully, and was told by the footman that his ladies were not at home, although I had seen Melinda through the blinds of a parlour window, as I went up to the door. Incensed at this affront I quitted the door, without saying one word, and as I repassed the parlour, bowed to Miss, who still remained in the same situation, securely screened, as she thought, from my view.

This disappointment gave me more uneasiness on Strap's account than my own; for I was in no danger of dying for love of Melinda; on the contrary, the remembrance of my charming Narcissa, was a continual check upon my conscience, during the whole course of my addresses: and perhaps contributed to the bad success of my scheme, by controlling my raptures, and condemning my design.

Baffled hitherto in my matrimonial schemes, I began to question my talents for the science of fortune-hunting, and to bend my thoughts towards some employment under the government. With the view of procuring which, I cultivated the acquaintance of Lords Straddle and Swillpot, whose fathers were men of interest at court. I found these young noblemen as open to my advances as I could desire: I accompanied them in their midnight rambles, and often dined with them at taverns, where I had the honour of paying the reckoning.

I one day took the opportunity to disclose my desire of being settled in some sinecure; and to soli-

cit their influence in my behalf. Swillpot squeezing my hand, said, I might depend upon his service, by G—d. The other swore that no man would be more proud than he to run of my errands. Encouraged by these declarations I ventured to express an inclination to be introduced to their fathers, who were able to do my business at once. Swillpot frankly owned he had not spoke to his father these three years; but he undertook to make me acquainted with the Earl Strutwell, who was hand and glove with a certain person that ruled the roast. This offer I embraced with many acknowledgments, and he carried me to the levee of this great man, where he left me in a crowd of fellow-dependants, and was ushered to a particular closet audience; from whence in a few minutes, he returned with his lordship, who took me by the hand, assured me he would do me all the service he could, and desired to see me often. I was charmed with my reception, and waited on him next audience day, when I was favoured with a particular smile, squeeze of the hand, and a whisper, signifying that my business was done, for he had a place in his view for me.

After I had enjoyed a long audience, I happened to look at my watch, in order to regulate my motions by it; and his lordship observing the chased case, desired to see the device, and examine the execution, which he approved with some expressions of admiration. Considering the obligations I lay under to his lordship, I thought there could not be a fitter opportunity than the present to manifest my gratitude; I therefore begged he would do me the honour to accept of the watch as a small testimony of the sense I had of his lordship's generosity.

ty. Rather than disoblige me, he was persuaded to put it in his pocket, to my no small satisfaction, who took my leave immediately, after having received a kind squeeze, and an injunction to depend upon his promise.

Buoyed up with my reception, my heart opened, I gave away a guinea among the lacqueys, who escorted me to the door, flew to the lodgings of Lord Straddle, upon whom I forced my diamond ring, as an acknowledgment for the great service he had done me, and from thence hied myself home, with an intent of sharing my happiness with honest Strap. I determined, however, to heighten his pleasure by depressing his spirits at first, and then bringing in the good news with double relish. For this purpose, I affected the appearance of disappointment and chagrin, and told him in an abrupt manner, that I had lost the watch and diamond. Poor Hugh no sooner heard these words, than he cried, God in heaven forbid! I could carry on the farce no longer, but laughing in his face, told him every that had befallen, as above recited.—His features were immediately unbended, and the transition so affecting, that he wept with joy, calling my Lord Strutwell by the appellations of Jewel, Phoenix, *Rara avis*, and praising God, that there was still some virtue left among our nobility.

Intoxicated with my good fortune, I went to Banter, and communicated the whole affair, concluding with an assurance that I would do him all the service in my power. He heard me with great patience, then regarding me a good while with a look of disdain, pronounced, So, your business is done, you think? As good as done, I believe, (said I.) I'll tell you (replied he) what will do it
still

still more effectually—A halter—'Sdeath! if I had been such a gull to two such scoundrels as Strutwell and Straddle, I would without any more ado tuck myself up. Shocked at this exclamation, I desired him with some confusion to explain himself: Upon which he gave me to understand, that both these peers were poor contemptible wretches, whose word no man could rely on.

I leave the reader to judge how I relished this piece of information, which precipitated me from the most exalted pinnacle of hope to the lowest abyss of dispondence; and well nigh determined me to take Banter's advice, and finish my chagrin with a halter.

I was so confounded that I could make no reply to Banter; and began to deliberate with myself, in what manner I should attempt to retrieve the moveables I had so foolishly lost. I would have thought it no robbery to take them again by force, could I have done it without any danger of being detected; but as I could have no such opportunity, I resolved to work my finesse, and go immediately to the lodgings of Straddle, where I was so fortunate as to find him. My Lord, (said I) I have just now recollected, that the diamond I had the honour of presenting to you, is loosened a little in the socket, and there is a young fellow just arrived from Paris, who is reckoned the best jeweller in Europe; I knew him in France, and if your lordship will give me leave, will carry the ring to him to be set to rights. His Lordship was not to be caught in this snare; he thanked me for my offer, and let me know, that having himself observed the defect, he had already sent it to his own jeweller to be mended. And indeed, by this time, I believe

lieve it was in the jeweller's hands, though not in order to be mended, for it stood in no need of alteration.

My money now decreased apace, and poverty stared me full in the face, when one day Banter conducted me to a gaming house under the piazzas in Covent Garden, which we entered, and having delivered our swords to a grim fellow, who demanded them at the foot of the stair-case, ascended to the second story, where I saw multitudes of people standing round two gambling tables, loaded in a manner, with gold and silver. Before I would venture any thing, I considered the company more particularly, and there appeared such a groupe of villainous faces, that I was struck with horror and astonishment at the sight! I signified my surprise to Banter, who whispered in my ear, that the bulk of those present were composed of sharpers, highwaymen, and apprentices, who having embezzled their masters cash, made a desperate push in this place, to make up their deficiencies. This account did not encourage me to hazard any part of my small pittance; but at length I began by risking one shilling, and in less than an hour, my winning amounted to thirty. Convinced by this time of the fairness of the game, and animated with success, there was no need of further persuasion to continue the play: so that I moved to the higher table, where I laid half a guinea on every throw, and fortune still favouring me, I found myself, after many vicissitudes, one hundred and fifty guineas in pocket.

As I marched out with my prize, I happened to tread upon the toes of a tall raw-boned fellow, who roared out in a tremendous voice, Blood and wounds!

wounds! you son of a whore, what's that for? I asked pardon with a great deal of submission, but the more I humbled myself the more he stormed, provoking me with scandalous names that I could not put up with: so that I gave a loose to my passion, returned his Billingsgate, and challenged him to follow me down to the piazzas. His indignation cooling as mine warmed, he refused my invitation, saying, he would choose his own time, and returned towards the table, muttering threats which I neither dreaded nor distinctly heard; but descending with great deliberation, received my sword from the door keeper, whom I gratified with a guinea according to the custom of the place, and went home in a rapture of joy.

My faithful valet let me in and followed me to my chamber, where he stood silent like a condemned criminal, in expectation of hearing that every shilling was spent. I guessed the situation of his thoughts, and assuming a sullen look, bid him fetch me some water to wash. He replied, without lifting his eyes from the ground, in my simple conjecture, you have more occasion for rest, not having (I suppose) slept these four and twenty hours. Bring me some water, (said I in a peremptory tone;) upon which he sneaked away shrugging his shoulders. Before he returned I had spread my whole stock on the table in the most ostentatious manner; so that when it first saluted his view, he stood like one intranced, and having rubbed his eyes more than once, broke out into, Lord have mercy upon us, what a vast treasure is here! 'Tis all our own Strap, (said I) take what is necessary, and redeem the sword immediately. He advanced towards the table, stopt short by the way,

looked

looked at the money and me by turns, and with a wildness in his countenance, cried, I dare say, it is honestly come by. To remove his scruples, I made him acquainted with the whole story of my success, on hearing of which, he danced about the room, in an extacy, so that I was afraid the sudden change of fortune had disordered his intellects, and that he was run mad with joy.

I now found myself perfectly at ease, and looking upon the gaming table as a certain resource for a gentleman in want, became more gay than ever. Although my clothes were almost as good as new, I grew ashamed of wearing them, because I thought every body by this time, had got an inventory of my wardrobe. For which reason, I bought two new suits, a plain gold watch, despairing of recovering that which I had so foolishly given to Strutwell. I thought myself then at liberty to expostulate with his lordship, whom I treated with great freedom in a letter, for amusing me with vain hopes. Nor was I less reserved with Straddle, who seemed very much enraged at my freedom, talked a great deal about his quality and honour, and began to make some comparisons, which I thought so injurious to mine, that I demanded an explanation with great warmth; and he was mean enough to equivocate, and condescend in such a manner, that I left him with a hearty contempt of his behaviour.

About this time Banter, who had observed a surprising alteration in my appearance, began to inquire very minutely into the cause; and as I did not think fit to let him know the true state of the affair, I told him that I had received a small supply from a relation in the country, who at the same time had promised to use all his interest in sollicit-

ing some post for me. If that be the case, said he, perhaps you won't care to mortify yourself a little in making your fortune another way. I have a relation who is to set out for Bath next week, with an only daughter, who being sickly and decrepid, intends to drink the waters. Her father died about a year ago, and left her with a fortune of 20,000*l*. under the sole management of her mother, who is my kinswoman. As they are both utter strangers to life, it is a thousand to one that the girl will be picked up by some scoundrel or other at Bath, if I don't provide for her otherwise. You are a well-looking fellow, Random, and can behave as demurely as a quaker. Now if you will give me an obligation for five hundred pounds, to be paid six months after your marriage, I will put you in a method of carrying her in spite of all opposition.

This proposal was too advantageous for me, to be refused: The writing was immediately drawn and executed; and Banter giving me notice of the time when, and the stage-coach in which they were to set out, I bespoke a place in the same convenience; and having hired a horse for Strap, who was charmed with the project, set out accordingly.

As we took our seats before day, I had not the pleasure for some time of seeing Mits Snapper (that was the name of my mistress) nor even of perceiving the number and sex of my fellow-travellers. The first five minutes passed in a general silence, when all of a sudden, the coach heeling to one side, a boisterous voice pronounced, To the right and left, cover your flanks, damme! I easily discovered by the tone and matter of his exclamation, that it was uttered by a son of Mars; neither was it hard to conceive the profession of another person, who

who sat opposite to me, and observed, that we ought to have been well satisfied of the security, before we entered upon the premises. These two sallies had not the desired effect: We continued a good while as mute as before, till at length, the gentleman of the sword swore he had got into a meeting of quakers. I believe so too, (said a shrill female voice, at my left hand) for the spirit of folly begins to move. Out with it then, madam, (replied the soldier.) You seem to have no occasion for a midwife, (cried the lady.) D—n my blood! (exclaimed the other) a man can't talk to a woman, but she immediately thinks of a midwife. True, Sir, (said she) I long to be delivered. What! of a mouse, madam? (said he.) No, Sir, (said she) of a fool. Are you far gone with fool? said he. Little more than two miles, (said she.) By Gad, you're a wit, madam! (cried the officer) I wish I could with any justice return the compliment, (said the lady.) Zounds! I have done, (said he.) Your bolt is soon shot, according to the proverb, (said she.) The warrior's powder was quite spent; the lawyer advised him to drop the prosecution, and a grave matron told her she must not let her tongue run so fast among strangers. This reprimand, softened with the appellation of *child*, convinced me that the satirical lady was no other than Miss Snapper, and I resolved to regulate my conduct accordingly. The champion finding himself so smartly handled, changed his battery, and began to expatiate on his own exploits. You talk of shot, madam, (said he) damme! I have both given and received some shot in my time. I was wounded in the shoulder by a pistol ball at Dettin-gen, where I say nothing, but by G—d! if it had

not been for me, all's one for that, I despise boasting, G—d d—me! So saying, he whistled one part, and hummed another of the Black Joke; then addressing himself to the lawyer, went on thus; Wouldn't you think it damn'd hard, after having, at the risk of your life, recovered the standard of a regiment, that had been lost, to receive no preferment for your pains! I don't chuse to name names, sink me! but howsomever, this I will refer, by G—d, and that is this, a musqueteer of the French guards, having taken a standard from a certain cornet of a certain regiment, damme! was retreating with his prize as fast as his horse's heels could carry him, damme! Upon which, I snatched up a firelock that belonged to a dead man, damme! and shot his horse under him, d—n my blood! The fellow got upon his feet, and began to repose me, upon which I charged my bayonet breast high, and run him through the body, by G—d! One of his comrades coming to his assistance, shot me in the shoulder, as I told you before; and another gave me a confusion on the head with the but end of his carbine; but damme, that did not signify. I killed one, put the other to flight, and taking up the standard, carried it off very deliberately. But the best joke of all was, the son of a b—ch of a cornet who had surrendered it in a cowardly manner, seeing it in my possession, demanded it from me, in the front of the line. D—n my blood (says he) where did you find my standard? (says he) D—n my blood (said I) where (said I) did you lose it? (said I.) That's nothing to you (says he) 'tis my standard (says he) and by G—d I'll have it, (says he.) D—n—ti—n seize me (says I) if you shall (says I) till I have first delivered it to the General

neral (says I ;) and accordingly I went to the head quarters after the battle, and delivered it to my Lord Stair, who promised to do for me ; but I am no more than a poor lieutenant still, d—n my blood !

Having vented this repetition of expletives, the lawyer owned he had not been requited according to his deserts ; observed that the labourer is always worthy of his hire, and asked if the promise was made before witnesses, because in that case the law would compel the General to perform it ; but understanding that the promise was performed during a *tete a tete*, over a bottle, without being restricted to time or terms, he pronounced it not valid in law, proceeded to inquire into the particulars of the battle, and affirmed, that although the English had drawn themselves into a premunire at first, the French managed their cause so lamely in the course of the dispute, that they would have been utterly nonsuited, had they not obtained a *noli-prosequi*. In spite of these enlivening touches, the conversation was like to suffer another long interruption ; when the lieutenant offered to regale the company with a song ; and began thus :

“ Would you task the moon-ty’d hair,

“ To your flagrant beau repair ;

“ Where waving with the poppling vow

“ The bantling fine will shelter you, &c.”

The sense of the rest he perverted as he went on, with such surprising facility, that I could not help thinking he had been at some pains to burlesque the performance. Miss Snapper ascribed it to the true cause, namely ignorance ; and when he asked her how she relished his music, answered, that in her opinion, the music and the words were much

of a piece. O! d—n my blood! (said he) I take that as a high compliment; for every body allows the words are damnable fine. They may be so, (replied the lady) for aught I know, but they are above my comprehension. Madam, curse me! (cried he) No, not to speak sense neither, (said she.) D—n me heart (said he) I'll speak what I please. Here the lawyer interposed, by telling him there were some things he must not speak. And upon being desired to give an instance, mentioned Treason and Defamation. As for the king, (cried the soldier) God bless him, I eat his bread, and have lost blood in his cause, therefore I have nothing to say to him, but by G—d, I dare say any thing to another man. No, (said the lawyer) you dare not call me rogue. Damme, for what? said the other. Because (replied the counsellor) I should have a good action against you, and recover. Well, well, (cried the officer) if I dare not call you rogue, I dare think you one, damme! This stroke of wit he accompanied with a loud laugh of self-approbation, which unluckily did not affect the audience, but effectually silenced his antagonist, who did not open his mouth for the space of an hour thereafter, except to clear his pipes with three *hemms*, which, however, produced nothing.

In the mean time, day breaking in upon us, discovered to one another the faces of their fellow-travellers; and I had the good fortune to find my mistress not quite so deformed as she had been represented. Her head, indeed, bore some resemblance to a hatchet, but she had a certain delicacy in her complexion, and a great deal of vivacity in her eyes, which were very large and black; and though the protuberance of her breast, when con-

sidered

sidered alone, seemed to drag her forwards, it was easy to perceive an equivalent on her back which balanced the other, and kept her body in equilibrium. On the whole, I thought I should have great reason to congratulate myself, if it should be my fate to possess twenty thousand pounds encumbered with such a wife. At length a dispute happened, which ended in a wager, to be determined by me, who was so much absorpt in contemplation, that I neither heard the reference nor the question which was put to me by each in his turn; affronted at my supposed contempt, the soldier with great vociferation, swore, I was either dumb or deaf, if not both, and that I looked as if I could not say *Bob to a goose*. Arroused at this observation, I fixed my eyes upon him, and pronounced with emphasis the interjection *Bob!* Upon which he cocked his hat in a fierce manner and cried, damme, Sir, what d'ye mean by that? Had I intended to answer him, which by the bye, was not my design. I should have been anticipated by Miss, who told him, my meaning was to shew, that I could cry *boh!* to a goose; and laughed very heartily at my laconic reproof. Her explanation and mirth did not help to appease his wrath, which broke out in several martial insinuations, such as I do not understand such freedoms, damme! D—n my blood! I'm a gentleman, and bear the king's commission, 'Sblood! some people deserve to have their noses pulled for their impertinence. I thought to have checked these ejaculations by a frown; because he had talked so much of his valour that I had long ago rated him an ass with a lion's skin; but so far from answering my expectation, that he took umbrage at the contraction of my brows, swore he did

not value my sulky look a fig's end, and protested he feared no man breathing. Strap now rode up to the coach door, and told us in a great fright, that two men on horseback were crossing the heath, and made directly towards us. Mrs. Snapper now began to scream, her daughter grew pale, the other lady pulled out her purse to be in readiness, the lawyer's teeth chattered, and the captain gave evident signs of confusion. After having commanded the coachman to stop, I opened the door, jumped out, and invited the warrior to follow me. But finding him backward and astonished, I took my pistols, mounted on horseback, and faced the robbers, who were now very near us. Seeing me ready to oppose them on horseback, and Strap armed a foot, they reconnoitred us, and went off the way they came, at a hand-gallop. I followed them as fast as I could, but not being so well-mounted as they, my efforts would have been to little purpose, had not the horse of one of them stumbled and thrown his rider with such violence over his head, that he lay senseless, when we came up, and was taken without the least opposition, while his comrade consulted his own safety in flight, without regarding the distress of his friend. In the mean time a crowd of people, armed with different kinds of weapons came up; and among the rest a farmer, who no sooner perceived the thief, whom we had secured, than he cried, there's the fellow who robbed me an hour ago, of twenty pounds in the canvas bag. He was immediately searched, and the money found exactly as it had been described: Upon which, we committed him to the charge of the countryman, who guarded him to the town of Hounslow.

When

When I had taken my seat in the coach again, Miss Snapper made me a compliment on my behaviour; her mother too owned herself obliged to me; and the lawyer told me, I was intitled to a reward of forty pounds, for having apprehended a highwayman. The soldier observed with a countenance, in which impudence and shame struggling, produced some disorder, that if I had not been in such a damned hurry to get out of the coach, he would have secured the rogues effectually, without all this bustle and loss of time, by a scheme which my heat and precipitation ruined. For my own part, (continued he) I am always extremely cool on these occasions. So it appeared by your trembling (said the young lady.) Death and damnation (cried he) your sex protects you, madam; if any man on earth durst tell me so much, I'd send him to hell, damn my heart! in an instant. So saying he fixed his eyes on me, and asked if I had seen him tremble. I answered without hesitation, yes. Damme, Sir, said he) d'ye doubt my courage? I replied, very much. This declaration quite disconcerted him. He looked blank, and pronounced, with a faltering voice, Oh! 'tis very well, d—n my blood! I shall find a time. I signified my contempt of him, by thrusting my tongue in my cheek, which humbled him so much, that he scarce swore another oath during the whole journey.

Nothing remarkable happened during the remaining part of our journey, when I waited on the ladies to the house of a relation, in which they intended to lodge, and passing that night at the inn, took lodgings next morning for myself.

The forenoon was spent in visiting every thing that was worth seeing in the place, which I did in company with a gentleman to whom Banter had given me a letter of introduction; and in the afternoon waited on the ladies. I was received with great cordiality, and had the mother's permission to conduct them the next day to the long room, which we no sooner entered, than the eyes of every body present were turned upon us. The celebrated Mr. Nash, the master of the ceremonies, took upon himself to expose my mistress to the edge of his wit. With this view he approached us with many bows and grimaces, and after having welcomed Miss Snapper to the place, asked her if she could inform him of the name of Tobit's dog. I was so much incensed at his insolence, that I should certainly have kicked him where he stood, had not the young lady prevented the effects of my indignation, by replying with the utmost vivacity, his name was Nash, and an impudent dog he was. This repartee, so unexpected and just, raised such an universal laugh at the aggressor, that all his assurance was insufficient to support him under their derision; so that after he had endeavoured to compose himself, by taking snuff, and forcing a smile, he was obliged to sneak off in a very ludicrous attitude; while my Dulcinea was applauded to the skies, for the brilliancy of her wit, and her acquaintance universally courted.

Next day I put on my gayest apparel, and went to drink tea at Mrs. Snapper's, who I found, was laid up with the tooth-ach; Miss therefore was intrusted to my care. We set out for the ball-room, where we had not been longer than a quarter of an hour, when a gentleman came in, leading a young lady,

lady, whom I immediately discovered to be the adorable Narcissa ! Good heaven ! what were the thrillings of my soul at that instant ! my reflection was overwhelmed with a torrent of agitation ! my heart throbbed with surprising violence ! I panted for want of breath, and in short, was for some moments intranced ! This first tumult subsiding, a crowd of flattering ideas rushed upon my imagination : Every thing that was soft, sensible, and engaging in the character of that dear creature, recurred to my remembrance, and every favourable circumstance of my own qualifications appeared in all the aggravation of self-conceit, to heighten my expectation ! My whole powers being engrossed in this manner, it may be easily imagined how ill I entertained Miss Snapper, on whom I could not now turn my eyes without making comparisons very little to her advantage. This mistress of my soul having retired, I discovered so much uneasiness, that Miss Snapper proposed to go home ; telling me she had too great a regard for me to keep me any longer in torment. I feigned ignorance of her meaning, and having seen her safely at her lodgings, took my leave, and went home in an ecstasy. Next day I was met by a gentlewoman, who having looked hard at me, cried, O Christ ! Mr. Random ! Surprised at this exclamation, I examined the countenance of the person who spoke, and immediately recognized my old sweet heart and fellow-sufferer Miss Williams.

I was mightily pleased to find this unfortunate woman under such a decent appearance. She was as heartily rejoiced at the apparent easiness of my fortune. She then expressed a desire to be acquainted with the vicissitudes of my life since we parted.

I gratified

I gratified her request, and when I described my situation in Suffex, perceived her to attend to my story with particular eagerness. Having brought my adventures down to the present day, she seemed much affected with the different circumstances of my fortune ; and saying with a smile she believed my distresses were now at a period, proceeded to inform me, that the lady whom she served was no other than the charming Narcissa, who had honoured her with her confidence for some time, that in consequence of that trust, she had often repeated the story of John Brown, with great admiration and regard ; that she loved to dwell upon the particulars of his character, and did not scruple to own a tender approbation of his flame. I became delirious with this piece of intelligence, strained Miss Williams in my embrace, called her the angel of my happiness, and acted such extravagancies, that she would have been convinced of my sincerity, had not my honour been clear enough to her before. As soon as I was in a condition to yield attention, she described the present situation of her mistress, who had no sooner come home the night before, than she closetted her, and in a rapture of joy, gave her to know that she had seen me at the ball, where I appeared in the character which she always thought my due, with such advantage of transformation, that unless my image had been engraven on her heart, it would have been impossible to know me for the person who had worn her aunt's livery ; that by the language of my eyes, she was assured of the continuance of my passion for her, and consequently of my being unengaged to any other, and that though she did not doubt, I would speedily fall upon some method of being

being introduced, she was so impatient to hear of me, that she (Miss Williams) had been sent abroad this very morning, on purpose to learn tidings of the name and character I at present bore. My bosom had been hitherto a stranger to such a flood of joy as now rushed upon it: My faculties were overborne by the tide: It was some time, before I could open my mouth; and much longer ere I could utter a coherent sentence. At length, I fervently requested her to lead me immediately to the object of my admiration: but she resisted my importunity, and explained the danger of such premature conduct. I assented to the justness of her remonstrance, and desired she would assist me with her advice; upon which, it was concerted between us, that for the present, I should be contented with her telling Narcissa, that in the course of her inquiries, she could only learn my name: and that if in a day or two, I could fall upon no other method of being made acquainted, she would deliver a letter from me, on pretence of consulting her happiness; and say that I met her in the streets, and bribed her to that piece of service.

In the afternoon, I drank tea at the house of Mr. Fregman, to whom I had been recommended by Banter; where I had not sat five minutes, till the fox-hunter came in, and by his familiar behaviour, appeared to be intimate with my friend. I was, at first, under some concern, lest he should recollect my features; but when I found myself introduced to him as a gentleman from London, without being discovered, I blessed the opportunity that brought me into his company, hoping, that in the course of our acquaintance, he would invite me to his house, nor were my hopes frustrated, for as we spent
the

the evening together, he grew extremely fond of my conversation, asked a great many childish questions about France and foreign parts ; and seemed so highly entertained with my answers, that in his cups, he shook me often by the hand, pronounced me an honest fellow, and in fine, desired our company at dinner next day, in his own house. We were accordingly very kindly received by him, and he asked if we chose to drink any thing before dinner ; tho' I never had more occasion for a cordial, I was ashamed to accept his offer, which was also refused by my friend. When I entered the dining-room, the first object that saluted my ravished eyes, was the divine Narcissa, blushing like Aurora, adorned with all the graces, that meekness, innocence and beauty can diffuse ! I was seized with a giddiness, my knees tottered, and I scarce had strength enough to perform the ceremony of salutation, when her brother, slapping me upon the shoulder, cried, Master Random, that there is my sister. I approached her with eagerness and fear ; but in the moment of our embrace, my soul was agonized with rapture ! As I had the happiness of sitting opposite to her, I feasted my eyes much more than my palate, but all my other appetites were swallowed up in the immensity of my love, which I fed by gazing incessantly on the delightful object. Dinner was scarce ended, when the squire became drowsy, and begged we would allow him to take a short nap. He had not been gone many minutes, when Freeman, guessing the situation of my heart, pretended to recollect himself all of a sudden, and starting up, begged the lady's pardon for half an hour, having luckily remembered of an engagement of some consequence ; so saying, he went away, promising to be

back

back in time enough for tea. Now I enjoyed an opportunity of disclosing the pantings of my soul; I had not power to use it. I studied many pathetic declarations, but when I attempted to give them utterance, my tongue denied its office; and she sat silent with a down-cast look full of anxious alarm; her bosom heaving with expectation of some great event. At length, I endeavoured to put an end to this solemn pause, and began with, It is very surprising Madam; here the sound dying away, I made a full stop, while Narcissa starting, blushed; and with a timid accent, answered, Sir? Confounded at this note of interrogation, I pronounced with the most sheepish bashfulness, Madam! to which she replied, I beg pardon, I thought you had spoke to me. Another pause ensued. I made another effort and made shift to express myself in this manner: I say, Madam, 'tis very surprising that love should act so inconsistent with itself, as to deprive its votaries of the use of their faculties, when they have most occasion for them. Since the happy occasion of being alone with you presented itself, I have made many unsuccessful attempts to declare a passion for the loveliest of her sex; a passion which took possession of my soul, while my cruel fate compelled me to wear a servile disguise, so unsuitable to my birth, sentiments, and let me add, my deserts; yet favourable in one respect, as it furnished me with opportunities of seeing and adoring your perfections. Yes, Madam, it was then your dear idea entered my bosom, where it has lived unimpaired in the midst of numberless care, and animated me against a thousand dangers and calamities! While I spoke thus, she concealed her face with her fan; and when I ceased, recovering herself from the most beautiful

beautiful confusion, told me, that she thought herself very much obliged by my favourable opinion of her; and that she was very sorry to hear I had been unfortunate. Encouraged by this gentle reply, I threw myself at her feet, and begged she would regard my passion with a favourable eye: She was alarmed at my behaviour, intreated me to rise, lest her brother should discover me in that posture. Upon this, I rose, assuring her I would rather die than disobey her; but in the mean time begged her to consider how precious the minutes of this opportunity were, and what restraint I put upon my inclination, in sacrificing them to her desire. She smiled with unspeakable sweetness, and said, there would be no want of opportunities, provided I could maintain the good opinion her brother had conceived of me; and I, enchanted with her charms, seized her hand, which I well nigh devoured with kisses. But she checked my boldness, and desired I would not so far forget myself or her, as to endanger the esteem she had for me; in short, she mingled so much good sense and complacency in her reproof, that I became as much enamoured of her understanding, as I had been before of her beauty, and asked pardon for my presumption with the utmost reverence of conviction. Shortly after Freeman and the Squire entered, when I was fain to be more circumspect in my behaviour; but spent the evening in the most agreeable manner.

As I was next morning, as usual, favoured with a visit from my kind and punctual confidante, Miss Williams, who telling me, she was permitted to receive my letters for her mistress; I took up the pen immediately, and following the first dictates of my passion, wrote, as follows:

DEAR

DEAR MADAM,

WERE it possible for the powers of utterance, to reveal the soft emotions of my soul ; the fond anxiety, the glowing hopes, and chilling fears that rule my breast by turns ; I should need no other witness than this paper, to evince the purity and ardour of the flame your charms have kindled in my heart. But alas ! expression wrongs my love ! I am inspired with conceptions that no language can convey ! Your beauty fills me with wonder ! your understanding with ravishment, and your goodness with adoration ! I am transported with desire, distracted with doubts, and tortured with impatience ! Suffer me then, lovely arbitress of my fate, to approach your person, to breathe in soft murmurs my passion to your ear, to offer the sacrifice of a heart overflowing with the most genuine and disinterested love ; to gaze with extasy on the divine object of my wishes, to hear the music of her enchanting tongue ! to rejoice in her smiles of approbation, and banish the most intolerable suspense from the bosom of *Your enraptured*

RODERICK RANDOM.

Having finished this letter, I committed it to the care of my faithful friend, with an injunction to second my entreaty with all her eloquence and influence ; and soon after had the unspeakable happiness to receive the following answer from the charmer of my soul.

SIR,

TO say I look upon you with indifference, would be a piece of dissimulation which, I think, no decorum requires, and no custom can justify. As my heart never felt an impression that my tongue was ashamed to declare, I will not scruple

ple to own myself pleased with your passion, confident of your integrity, and so well convinced of my own discretion, that I should not hesitate in granting you the interview you desire, were I not overawed by the prying curiosity of a malicious world, the censure of which might be fatally prejudicial to the reputation of

Your

NARCISSA.

No Anchorite in the extasy of devotion, ever adored a relique with more fervour than that with which I kissed this inimitable proof of my charmer's candour, generosity and affection! I read it over a hundred times; was ravished with her confusion in the beginning; but the subscription of *YOUR NARCISSA*, yielded me such delight as I had never felt before! My happiness was still increased by Miss Williams, who blessed me with a repetition of her lady's tender expressions in my favour, when she received and read my letter. In short, I had all the reason in the world to believe that this gentle creature's bosom was possessed by a passion for me, as warm as mine for her.

I informed my friend of the Squire's consent, with regard to my dancing with Narcissa at the ball, and desired her to tell her mistress, that I would do myself the honour of visiting her in the afternoon, in consequence of his permission, when I hoped to find her as indulgent as her brother had been complaisant in that particular. Miss Williams expressed a good deal of joy, at hearing I was so much in favour with the fox-hunter, and ventured to assure me, that my visit would be very agreeable

to

to my mistress, the rather because Bruin was engaged to dine abroad. This was a circumstance, which I scarce need say, pleased me. I went immediately to the long-room, where I found him, and affecting to know nothing of his engagement, told him, I would do myself the pleasure to wait upon him in the afternoon, and to present his sister with a ticket for the ball. He shook me by the hand, according to custom, and giving me to understand that he was to dine abroad, desired me to go and drink tea with Narcissa.

Every thing succeeding thus to my wish, I waited with incredible patience for the time, which no sooner arrived, than I hastened to the scene, which my fancy had pre-occupied long before. I was introduced accordingly to the dear enchantress, whom I found accompanied by Miss Williams, who, on pretence of ordering tea, retired at my approach. This favourable incident, which alarmed my whole soul, disordered her also. I found myself actuated by an irresistible impulse, I advanced to her with eagerness and awe; and profiting by the confusion that prevailed over her, clasped the fair angel in my arms, and imprinted a glowing kiss upon her lips, more soft and fragrant than the dewy rose bud just bursting from the stem! Her face was in an instant covered with blushes, her eyes sparkled with resentment. I threw myself at her feet, and implored her pardon. Her love became advocate in my cause: her look softened into forgiveness, she raised me up, and chid me with so much sweetness of displeasure, that I was tempted to repeat the offence, had not the coming of a servant with the tea-board, prevented my presumption.

on. While we were subject to be interrupted or overheard, we conversed about the approaching ball, at which she promised to grace me as a partner.

The ball-night being arrived, I dressed myself in a suit I had reserved for some grand occasion; and conducted my angel to the scene, where she in a moment eclipsed all her female competitors for beauty, and attracted the admiration of the whole assembly. My heart dilated with pride on this occasion, when a certain nobleman came up, and honoured us with a very particular compliment, upon our accomplishments and appearance; but this transport was soon checked, when I perceived his lordship attach himself with great assiduity to my mistress. Her brother then pulling me by the sleeve, bid me take notice of a lady who sat fronting us, whom I distinguished to be Melinda. Wounds! Mr. Random, (cried the Squire) is she not a delicate piece of stuff! 'Sdeath! I have a good mind, if I thought she was a single person. Notwithstanding the perplexity I was in, I had reflection enough to foresee that my passion might suffer greatly by the presence of this lady, who in all probability would revenge herself upon me for having formerly disgraced her, by spreading reports to my prejudice. I was therefore alarmed at these symptoms of the Squire's admiration; and for some time did not know what reply to make, when he asked my opinion of her beauty: At length I told him that her name was Melinda, and was said to be under promise of marriage to a certain Lord. I thought this piece of intelligence would have hindered him from entertaining any further thoughts of her; but was mistaken. He made light of her

engagement,

engagement, saying, with a smile of self-approbation, Mayhap she will change her mind ; what signifies his being a Lord ? I think myself as good a man as e'er a Lord in Christendom ; and I'll see if a comimoner worth three thousand a year won't serve her turn. This determination startled me. My vexation was evident. Narcissa insisted on going home soon after ; and as I led her to the door, her noble admirer, with a look of languishment, directed to her a profound bow, which stung me to the soul. Before she went into the chair, she asked, with an appearance of concern, what was the matter with me ? and I could pronounce no more than, by heaven ! I'm distracted ! I went home, much dejected, and was surprised with the appearance of Miss Williams : She was extremely affected with my condition, begged me to moderate my passion, and follow her to Narcissa, who desired to see me. That dear name operated upon me like a charm ! I started up, and was conducted into her apartment, where I found the adorable creature in tears ! I was melted at the sight ; we continued silent for some time, my heart was too full to speak ; her snowy bosom heaved with fond resentment ; at last she sobbing cried, What have I done to disoblige you ? My heart was pierced with the tender question ! I drew near with the utmost reverence of affection ! I fell upon my knees before her, and kissing her hand, exclaimed, O ! thou art all goodness and perfection ! I am undone by my want of merit ! I am unworthy to possess thy charms, which Heaven hath destined for the arms of some more favoured being. She guessed the cause of my disquiet, upbraided me gently for my suspicion, and give me such flattering assurances of her eternal fidelity,

fidelity, that all my doubts and fears forsook me, and peace and satisfaction reigned within my breast.

Next day when I went into the long room, I observed several whispers circulate all of a sudden; and did not doubt that Melinda had been busy with my character; but I consoled myself with the love of Narcissa, upon which I rested with the most perfect confidence, and going up to the rowly-powly table, won a few pieces from Lord Quiverwit, who with an easy politeness, entered into conversation with me, and desiring my company to the coffee-house, treated me with tea and chocolate. He artfully turned the discourse upon Narcissa, and endeavoured by hinting at an intrigue he pretended to be engaged in elsewhere, to learn what connexion there was between her and me. But all his finess was ineffectual; I was convinced of his dissimulation, and gave such haughty answers to his inquiries, that high words passed between us. The next morning I received the following letter from him.

SIR,

WHEN any man injures my honour, let the difference of rank between us be ever so great, I am contented to waive the privilege of my quality, and seek reparation from him on equal terms. If you therefore, have spirit enough to support the character you assume, you will not fail to follow the bearer immediately to a convenient place, where you shall be met by

QUIVERWIT.

Finding there was a necessity for vindicating the reputation of my mistress, as well as for asserting my

my own honour, I put on my sword, bid Strap attend me, and set out with my conductor. When I came within sight of my rival, his lacquey told me, he had orders to stop ; upon which, I commanded Strap to halt also, while I walked forward.

I no sooner approached, than he haughtily required me to renounce all pretensions to Narcissa. Exasperated at this proposal, I unsheathed my sword, saying, Heavens! what title have you, or any man on earth to impose such terms on me! So saying, I rushed upon him with more eagerness than address, and received a wound in my neck, which redoubled my rage. He excelled me in temper as well as in skill, and when he perceived me beginning to flag, attacked me fiercely in his turn. Finding himself however better opposed than he expected, he resolved to follow his lounge, and close with me ; accordingly his sword entered my waistcoat, on the side of my breast-Bone, and running up between my shirt and skin, appeared over my left shoulder : I imagined that his weapon had perforated my lungs, and of consequence, that the wound was mortal ; therefore determined not to die unrevenged, I seized his shell, which was close to my breast, before he could disintangle his point, and keeping it fast with my left hand, shortened my own sword with my right, intending to run him through the heart ; but he received the thrust in the left arm, which penetrated up to the shoulder blade. Disappointed in this expectation, I grappled with him, and threw him upon the ground, where I wrested his sword out of his hand, and so great was my confusion, instead of turning the point upon him, struck out three of his fore-teeth with the hilt. In the mean time, our servants ran up

up to separate and assist us ; but before their approach, I had discovered that my supposed mortal wound was only a slight scratch. This disarmed me of my resentment, and I inquired into the situation of my antagonist, who remained on the ground, bleeding plentifully at his mouth and arm. I helped his footman to raise him, and having bound up his wound with my handkerchief, assured him it was not dangerous ; I likewise restored his sword, and offered to support him to his own house. He thanked me with an air of sullen dignity ; and whispering to me, that I should hear from him soon, went away, leaning on his servant's shoulder.

The news of this duel soon spread all over town. I was visited by Freeman, who testified his surprise at finding me, having been told that Lord Quiverwit being dead of his wounds, I had absconded, in order to avoid the cognizance of the law.

I went with this friend to the coffee-house, where I was saluted by a great many of those very persons who shunned me the preceding day. While I remained in this place, I received a message from Lord Quiverwit, desiring, if I was not engaged, to see me at his house.

Thither I immediately repaired, and was conducted to an apartment, where I was received by his lordship in bed. I would willingly, (said he) make you my friend ; but as it is impossible for me to divest myself of my passion for Narcissa, I am too well convinced of your sentiments, to think we shall ever agree on that subject. I took the liberty, therefore, of sending for you, in order to own candidly, that I cannot help opposing your success
with

with that young lady ; though at the same time, I promise to regulate my opposition by the dictates of justice and honour : This, however, I think proper to advertise you off, that ~~she~~ has no independent fortune, and if you should even succeed in your addresses, you would have the mortification to see her reduced to indigence, unless you have wherewithal to support her ; and I am credibly informed of your incapacity that way. Nay, I will confess, that, urged by this consideration, I have actually sent notice to her brother, of the progress I suspect you have made in her affection, and desired him to take his precautions accordingly. Alarmed and provoked at this information, I told his lordship, that I did not see how he could reconcile that piece of conduct with his profession of open dealing, and flung away from him in a passion.

As I walked homeward in hopes of hearing from my mistress as usual, by means of Miss Williams, I was surprised with the waving of a handkerchief, from the window of a coach and six that passed by me at full speed ; and upon further observation, I saw a servant on horseback riding after it, who, I knew by his livery, belonged to the Squire. Thunderstruck with the discovery, the knowledge of my misfortune rushed all at once upon my reflection. I guessed immediately that the signal was made by the dear hand of Narcissa, who being hurried away in consequence of Lord Quiverwit's message to her brother, had no other method of relating her distress, and imploring my assistance. Frantic with this conjecture, I ran to my lodging, snatched my pistols, and ordered Strap to get post-horses, with such incoherence of speech and disorder, that the

poor valet, terrified with the suspicion of another duel, instead of providing what I desired, went forthwith to Freeman, who came straight to my apartment, and conjured me so pathetically to acquaint him with the cause of my uneasiness, that I could not refuse to tell him my happiness was fled with Narcissa, and that I must retrieve her or perish. He represented the madness of such an undertaking, and at length diverted me from it. But though the hope of hearing from the darling of my soul supported my spirits a little while, I began to be very uneasy, when at the end of several weeks, I found that expectation disappointed. In short, melancholy and despondence took possession of my soul; and having the good fortune to find a return horse, set off for and arrived in London, without having met with any thing remarkable on the road; save that, while we crossed Bagshot Heath, I was seized with a sort of inclination to retrieve my fortune, by laying passengers under contribution.

The apartment I formerly lived in being unengaged, I took possession of it, and next day went in quest of Banter, who received me with open arms, in expectation of having his bond discharged to his liking: But when he understood what had happened, his countenance changed of a sudden, and he told me, that if he was in my place, he would put it out of fortune's power to play him such another trick. When I desired him to explain his meaning, he pointed to his neck, raised himself on his tip-toes, and was going away without any further ceremony, when I put him in mind of the five guineas I had lent him. Five guineas! (cried he) Zounds! had you acted with common prudence you might have had twenty thousand in
your

your pocket by this time. I depended upon five hundred from you, as much as if I had notes for it in the bank ; and by all the rules of equity, you are indebted to me for that sum. I was neither pleased nor convinced by his computation, and insisted on my right with such determined obstinacy, that he was fain to alter his tone, and appease my clamour, by assuring me, that he was not master of five shillings. Society in distress generally promotes good understanding among people ; from being a dun, I descended to be a client, and asked his advice about repairing my losses. He counselled me to have recourse again to the gaming table, where I had succeeded so well before, and to put myself in a condition, by selling my watch. I followed his directions, and having accommodated him with a few pieces, went to the place, where I lost every shilling.

Banter being informed of my bad luck at play, told me, that fortune would probably be one day weary of persecuting me ; in the mean time, (said he,) here's a letter for you, which I received just now inclosed in one from Freeman. I snatched it with eagerness, and having opened it, read

IT is with great difficulty, that I have stolen from the observation of those spies, who are set over me, this opportunity of telling you, that I was suddenly carried away from Bath, by my brother, who was informed of our correspondence by Lord Quiverwit, whom, I since understand, you have wounded in a duel on my account. As I am fully convinced of your honour and love, I hope I shall never hear of such desperate proofs of either for the future. I am so strictly watched, that it will

be impossible for you to see me, until my brother's suspicion shall abate, or Heaven contrive some other unforeseen event in our behalf. In the mean time you may depend on the constancy and affection of

Your own

NARCISSA.

This kind letter afforded me great consolation: I communicated it to Banter, and at the same time, shewed him her picture: He approved her beauty and good sense, and could not help owning, that my neglect of Miss Snapper was excusable, when such a fine creature engrossed my attention.

I began to be reconciled to my fate, and imagined, that if I could contrive means of subsisting until my uncle should arrive, that he would enable me to do something effectual in behalf of my love and fortune. I therefore consulted Banter about a present supply, who no sooner understood that I had credit with a taylor, than he advised me to take off two or three suits of rich clothes and convert them into cash, by selling them at half price to a salesman in Monmouth-street. I was a little startled at his proposal, which I thought favoured a little of fraud; but he observing, that in a few months, I might be in a condition to do every body justice, I was acquitted by the honesty of my intention. I suffered myself to be persuaded by his salvo, by which my necessity, rather than my judgment, was convinced; and when I found there was no accounts of the ship in which my uncle embarked, actually put the scheme in practice, and raised by it five and twenty guineas, paying him for his advice with the odd five.

But

But this expedient was in a few weeks attended with a consequence I did not foresee: a player having purchased one of the suits which were exposed to sale, appeared in it on the stage, while my taylor happened to be present. He knew it immediately, and inquiring minutely into the affair, discovered my whole contrivance: upon which he came to my lodgings, and presented his bill, which amounted to 50*l*. Surprised at this unexpected address, I affected to treat him cavalierly, swore some oaths, asked if he doubted my honour, and, telling him I should take care who I dealt with for the future, bid him come again in three days. He obeyed me punctually, demanded his money, and finding himself amused with bare promises, arrested me that very day in the street. I refused to go to a sponging-house, where I had heard there was nothing but the most flagrant imposition; and a coach being called, was carried to the Marshalsea, attended by a bailiff and his follower.

The turnkey guessing, from my appearance, that I had money in my pocket, gave me to understand, that I must pay before-hand, for the apartment I should dwell in. I hired a small, paltry bed-chamber, for a crown a week, which, in any other place, would not have let at eighteen-pence. Having taken possession, I sent for Strap, and my thoughts were busied in collecting matter of consolation to that faithful squire, when somebody knocked at my door, which I no sooner opened, than a young fellow entered, in very shabby clothes and marvellous foul linen. After a low bow, he called me by my name, and asked if I had forgot him. His voice assisted me in recollecting this person, whom I soon recognized to be my old ac-

quaintance beau Jackson, of whom mention is made in the former part of my memoirs. I saluted him, and condoled with him on his present situation; which however, did not seem to affect him much. Strap soon after came to me, and we dined together; when I desired him to pack up all our things, and carry them to some cheap lodging. I likewise recommended to him the keeping my misfortune secret, and saying to my landlord, or any other who should inquire for me, that I was gone into the country for a few weeks; at the same time I laid strong injunctions upon him to call every second day upon Banter, in case he should receive any letters for me from Narcissa, by the canal of Freeman; and by all means to leave a direction for himself, at my uncle's lodgings in Wapping, by which I might be found when my kinsman should arrive.

When he departed to execute these orders, I found myself so little seasoned to my situation, that I dreaded reflection, and sought shelter from it in the company of the beau, who, promising to regale me with a lecture upon taste, conducted me to the common side, where I saw a number of naked miserable wretches assembled together. We had not been here many minutes, when a figure appeared, wrapped in a dirty rug, tied about his loins with two pieces of lilt, of different colours, knotted together; having a black bushey beard, and his head covered with a huge mass of brown periwig, which seemed to have been ravished from the crown of some scarecrow. This apparition, stalking in with great solemnity, made a profound bow to the audience, who signified their approbation by a general response of 'how dy'e do, doctor?' He then

then turned towards us, and honoured Jackson with a particular salutation; upon which my friend introduced him to me, by the name of Mr. Melopohn. This ceremony being over, he advanced into the middle of the congregation, and pronounced a very elegant and ingenious discourse upon the difference between genius and taste, illustrating his assertions with apt quotations from the best authors, antient as well as modern. When he had finished his harangue, he bowed to the spectators; not one of whom understood a sentence of what he uttered. I understood also, that he was an excellent poet, and had composed a tragedy, and other pieces in verse and prose. Among others I was particularly pleased with some elegies, in imitation of Tibullus; one of which I beg leave to submit to the reader.

WHERE now are all my flatt'ring dreams of joy?

Monimia gives my soul her wonted rest;
Since first thy beauty fix'd my roving eye,

Heart-gnawing cares corrode my pensive breast!
Le happy lovers fly where pleasures call,

With festive songs beguile the fleeting hour;
Lead beauty thro' the mazes of the ball,

Or prels her wanton in love's roseate bow'r.
For me no more I'll range th' empurpled mead,

Where shepherds pipe, and virgins dance around;
Nor wander thro' the woodbine's fragrant shade,

To hear the music of the groves resound.
I'll seek some lonely church, or dreary hall,

Where fancy paints the glaucous taper blue,
Where damps hang mould'ring on the ivy'd wall;

And sheeted ghosts drink up the midnight dew;
There

There, leagu'd with hopeless anguish and despair,

A while in silence o'er my fate repine ;

Then with a long farewell to love and care,

To kindred dust my weary limbs consign.

Wilt thou, Monimia, shed a gracious tear

On the cold grave where all my sorrows rest ?

Wilt thou strew flow'rs, applaud my love sincere,

And bid the turf lie light upon my breast ?

I was wonderfully affected with this pathetic complaint, which seemed so well calculated for my own disappointment in love, that I could not help attaching the idea of Narcissa to the name of Monimia, and forming such sad presages of my passion, that I could not recover my tranquillity.

I revered greatly Mr. Melopoy'n's genius, and was seized with an eager curiosity to know the particular events of a fortune so unworthy of his merit. At this instant Strap returned with a bundle of clothes, which I sent with my compliments to Mr. Melopoy'n, as a small token of my regard, and desired the favour of his company to dinner. He accepted my present and invitation, and in less than half an hour made his appearance in a decent dress, which altered his figure very much to his advantage. I perceived by his countenance, that his heart was big with gratitude, and endeavoured to prevent his acknowledgments, by asking pardon for the liberty I had taken ; he made no reply, but with an aspect full of admiration and esteem, bowed to the ground, while the tears gushed from his eyes. Affected with these symptoms of an ingenious mind, I shifted the conversation from this subject, and complimented him on his tragedy and other pieces I had read, which I assured him, at-

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forded me infinite pleasure. My approbation made him happy. Dinner being served, and Jackson arrived, I begged their permission for Strap to sit at table with us, after having informed them, that he was a person to whom I was extremely obliged; they were kind enough to grant that favour, and we eat together with great harmony and satisfaction.

Notwithstanding all I had suffered from the knavery and selfishness of mankind, I was amazed, and incensed at that base indifference which suffered such uncommon merit as Melopoy'n possessed, to languish in obscurity, and struggle with all the miseries of a loathsome jail; and should have blessed the occasion that secluded me from such a perfidious world, had not the remembrance of the amiable Narcissa preserved my attachment to that society of which she constituted a part. In vain did I fly for refuge to the amusements of the place, and engage in the parties of Jackson, at cards, billiards, nine pins, and fives; a train of melancholy thoughts took possession of my soul, which even the conversation of Melopoy'n could not divert. I ordered Strap to inquire every day at Banter's lodgings, in expectation of hearing again from my charmer; and my disappointment considerably augmented my chagrin. My affectionate valet was infected with my sorrow, and often sat with me whole hours without speaking, uttering sigh for sigh, and shedding tear for tear. This fellowship increased our distemper; he became incapable of business, and was discarded by his master; while I seeing my money melt away, without any certainty of deliverance, grew negligent of life, lost all appetite, and degenerated into such a sloven, that

during

during the space of two months, I was neither washed, shifted, nor shaved; so that my face was obscured with dirt, and overshadowed with hair, and my whole appearance squalid and even frightful; when, one day, Strap brought me notice, that there was a man below who wanted to speak with me. Roused at this intelligence, I ran down stairs, and found to my infinite surprise, my generous uncle Mr. Bowling! Transported at the sight, I sprang forward to embrace him. Upon which he cried, Avaft, brother, avast! sheer off—Yo ho! you turnkey, why don't you keep a better look out? here's one of your crazy prisoners broke from his lashings, I suppose. I could not help laughing heartily at his mistake, which I soon rectified by my voice, which he instantly recollected, and shook me by the hand with great affection, testifying his concern at seeing me in such a miserable condition.

I conducted him to my apartment, where he let me know, that he was just arrived from the coast of Guinea, after having made a successful voyage, in which he had acted as mate, until the ship was attacked by a French privateer; that the captain being killed during the engagement, he had taken the command, and was so fortunate as to sink the enemy; after which he fell in with a merchant ship from Martinico, laden with sugar, indigo, and silver; and by virtue of his letter of marque, attacked, took, and brought her safe into Kinsale in Ireland, where she was condemned as a lawful prize; by where means he had not only got a large sum of money, but also acquired the favour of his owners, who had already conferred upon him the command of a large ship, mounted with twenty

ty nine-pounders, ready to sail upon a very advantageous voyage, which he was not at liberty to discover.

I was rejoiced beyond measure, at this account of his good fortune ; and, at his desire, recounted all the adventures that had happened to me since we parted. When he understood the particulars of Strap's attachment to me, he squeezed his hand very cordially, and promised to make a man of him ; and giving me ten guineas for my present occasion, took a direction for the taylor who arrested me, and went away, in order to discharge the debt, telling me at parting, that he would soon fetch up all my lee-way with a wet sail.

This beneficent kinsman soon after satisfied my creditor, and obtained an order for my discharge, so that I was no longer a prisoner ; but as I had some reluctance to part with my friends in distress, I prevailed upon Mr. Bowling to favour us with his company, and invited Mr. Melopoyne and Jackson to spend the evening at my apartment, where I regaled them with a supper, good wine, and the news of my release, on which they heartily congratulated me, notwithstanding the loss of my company, which they were pleased to say, they would severely feel. As for Jackson, his misfortune made so little impression on himself, and he was altogether so loose, indifferent and indiscreet, that I could scarce pity his situation : But I had conceived a veneration and friendship for the poet, who was in all respects, an object much more worthy of compassion and regard. When our guests withdrew, and my uncle had retired, with an intention to visit me next morning, I made up a bundle of some linen and other necessaries, and bidding Strap carry them

to Mr. Melopoy'n's lodging, went thither myself, and pressed it upon his acceptance with five guineas, which with much difficulty he received, assuring me at the same time, that he should never have it in his power to make satisfaction. I then asked if I could serve him any other way, to which he answered, "You have already done too much," and unable to contain the emotions of his soul any longer, burst into tears, and wept aloud. Moved at the spectacle, I left him to his repose, and when my uncle returned in the morning, represented his character in such a favourable light, that the honest seaman was affected with his distress, and determined to follow my example, in presenting him with five pieces more. Upon which, that I might save him some confusion, I advised Mr. Bowling to inclose it in a letter to be delivered by Strap, after we should be gone.

This was accordingly done, I took a formal leave of all my acquaintances in the jail. The coachman was ordered to drive to Mr. Bowling's lodgings, where, when we arrived, he entered into a serious discourse with me, and proposed that I should sail with him in quality of his Surgeon; in which case he would put me on a method of getting a fortune in a few years, by my own industry; and assured me, that I might expect to inherit all that he should die possessed of, provided I should survive him. I accepted his offer, and he carried me immediately to his chief owner, with whom a bargain was struck. That I might not have time to cool, he bid me draw out a list of medicines for a complement of five hundred men, adapted to the distempers of hot climates, and sufficient for a voyage of 18 months, and carry it to a certain wholesale apothecary,

apothecary, who would also provide me in two well-qualified mates. While I was thus employed, Strap came in, and looked very blank, when he understood my resolution : However, after a pause of some minutes, he insisted upon going along with me ; and at my desire was made ship's steward by captain Bowling, who promised to be at the expence of fitting him out, and to lend him two hundred pounds to purchase an adventure.

When I had delivered my list of medicines, my uncle told me, that by his last voyage, he had cleared three thousand pounds, one thousand he put into my hands ; and procured me credit for as much more, in goods that would turn to the best account.

Without troubling the reader with an account of the effect which this generosity had upon my mind, I shall only say, that his promises were instantly performed, and an invoice of merchandise proper for the voyage presented to me, that I might purchase the goods, and ship them with all expedition. The next day I set out with Strap in a post-chaise for Gravesend, where we went on board, and the wind serving, weighed anchor in less than 12 hours. Without meeting with any accident, we got as far as the Downs, where we were obliged to come to an anchor, and wait for an easterly wind to carry us out of the Channel.

In eight weeks we made the land of Guinea, near the mouth of the river Gambia, and trading along the coast as far to the southward of the Line as Angola and Bengula, in less than six months disposed of the greatest part of our cargo, and purchased four hundred negroes, my adventure having been laid out chiefly in gold dust.

Our compliment being made up, we took our departure from Cape Negro, and arrived in the Rio de la Plata in six weeks, having met with nothing remarkable in our voyage. Having produced our passport to the Spanish governor, we were received with great courtesy, sold our slaves in a very few days, and could have put off five times the number at our own price, being obliged to smuggle the rest of our merchandise, consisting of European base goods, which however we made shift to dispose of at a great advantage.

Our ship being freed from the disagreeable lading of Negroes, since our leaving the coast of Guinea, I began to enjoy myself, and breathe with pleasure the pure air of Paraguay. It was in this delicious place, that I gave myself entirely up to the thoughts of my dear Narcissa, whose image still kept full possession of my breast, and whose charms, enhanced by absence, appeared to my imagination, if possible, more engaging than ever. I calculated the profits of my voyage, which even exceeded my expectation; resolved to purchase a handsome sinecure upon my arrival in England, and if I should find the Squire as averse to me as ever, marry his sister by stealth; and in case our family should encrease, rely upon the generosity of my uncle, who was by this time worth a considerable sum.

While I amused myself with these agreeable projects, we were much caressed by the Spanish gentlemen, who frequently formed parties of pleasure for our entertainment. Among those who signaled themselves by their civility to us, there was one Don Antonio de Ribera, a very polite young gentleman, with whom I had contracted an inti-

mate

mate friendship, who invited us one day to his country-house, and as a further inducement to our compliance, promised to procure for us the company of an English signor, who had been settled in those parts many years, and acquired the love and esteem of the whole province by his affability, good sense, and honourable behaviour.

We accepted his invitation, and set out for his Villa, where we had not been longer than an hour, when the person arrived, in whose favour I had been so much prepossessed. He was a tall man, remarkable well shaped, of a fine mein and appearance, commanding respect, and seemed to be turned of forty ; the features of his face were saddened with a reserve and gravity, which in other countries would have been thought the effect of melancholy ; but here, appeared to have been contracted by his commerce with the Spaniards, who are remarkable for that severity of countenance. Understanding from Don Antonio, that we were his countrymen, he saluted us all round very complaisantly, and fixing his eyes attentively on me, uttered a deep sigh. I had been struck with a profound veneration for him at his first coming into the room ; and no sooner observed this expression of his sorrow, directed, as it were, in a particular manner to me, than my heart took part in his grief, I sympathized involuntarily, and sighed in my turn. Having asked leave of our entertainer, he accosted us in English, professed his satisfaction at seeing so many of his countrymen in such a remote place, and asked the captain, who went by the name of Signor Thoma, from what part of Britain he sailed, and whither he was bound. My uncle told him that we had sailed from the river Thames,

and were bound for the same place, by the way of Jamaica, where he intended to take in a lading of sugar.

Having satisfied himself in these and other particulars about the state of the war, he gave us to understand, that he had a longing desire to revisit his native country, in consequence of which, he had already transmitted to Europe the greatest part of his fortune in neutral bottoms, and would willingly embark the rest of it, with himself, in our ship, provided the captain had no objection to such a passenger.

I was overjoyed to hear his intention, and interested myself so much in his favour, that had he been disappointed, I should have been very unhappy. In the course of our entertainment, he eyed me with an uncommon attachment; I felt a surprising attraction towards him; when he spoke, I listened with attention and reverence; the dignity of his deportment filled me with affection and awe; and in short, the emotions of my soul, in presence of this stranger, were strong and unaccountable.

Having spent the best part of the day with us, he took his leave, telling captain Thoma. that he would hear from him in a short time: He was no sooner gone, than I asked a thousand questions about him, of Don Antonio, who could give me no other satisfaction, than that his name was Don Rodriguez, that he had lived fifteen or sixteen years in these parts, was reputed rich, and supposed to have been unfortunate in his younger years, because he was observed to nourish a pensive melancholy, even from the time of his first settlement among them; but that nobody had inquired into the cause of his sorrow, in consideration of his peace,

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which might suffer in the recapitulation of his misfortunes.

I was seized with an irresistible desire of knowing the particulars of his fate, and enjoyed not one hour of repose during the whole night, by reason of the eager conceptions that inspired me, with regard to his story. Next morning three mules arrived, with a message from Don Rodriguez, desiring our company, and that of Don Antonio, at his house, which was situated about ten miles further up in the country. I was pleased with his invitation, in consequence of which we mounted the mules which he had provided for us, and alighted at his house before noon. Here we were splendidly entertained by the generous stranger, who still seemed to shew a particular regard for me, and after dinner, made me a present of a ring set with a beautiful amethyst, the production of that country, saying, at the same time, that he was once blessed with a son, who, had he lived, would have been nearly my age. This observation, delivered with a profound sigh, made my heart throb with violence; a crowd of confused ideas rushed upon my imagination, which, while I endeavoured to unravel, my uncle perceived my absence of thought, and tapping me on the shoulder, said, Oons! are you asleep, Rory! Before I had time to reply, Don Rodriguez, with an uncommon eagerness of voice and look, pronounced, pray, captain, what is the young gentleman's name? His name, said my uncle, is Roderick Random. Gracious Powers! cried the stranger, starting up—And his mother's—His mother, answered the captain, amazed, was called Charlotte Bowling. O bounteous heaven! exclaimed Don Rodriguez, springing across

the table, and clasping me in his arms, my son! have I found thee again? do I hold thee in my embrace, after having lost and despaired of seeing thee so long? So saying, he fell upon my neck, and wept aloud with joy; while the power of nature operating strongly in my breast, I was lost in rapture, and while he pressed me to his heart, let fall a shower of tears into his bosom. His utterance was choaked up a good while, by the agitation of his soul; at length he broke out into, *Mysterious Providence! O my dear Charlotte! there yet remains a pledge of our love! and such a pledge! so sound! O infinite goodness! let me adore thy all-wise decrees!* Having thus expressed himself, he kneeled upon the floor, lifted up his eyes and hands to heaven, and remained some minutes in a silent extacy of devotion: I put myself in the same posture, adored the all-good Disposer in a prayer of mental thanksgiving; and when his ejaculation was ended, did homage to my father, and craved his parental blessing. He hugged me again with unutterable fondness, and having implored the protection of Heaven upon my head, raised me from the ground, and presented me as his son to the company, who wept in concert over this affecting scene. Among the rest my uncle wringing my father's hand, cried, *Brother Random, I'm rejoiced to see you. God be praised for this happy meeting. Don Rodriguez, understanding that he was his brother-in-law, embraced him affectionately, saying, Are you my Charlotte's brother? alas! unhappy Charlotte! but why should I repine? we shall meet again, never more to part! Brother, you are truly welcome. Dear son, I am transported with unspeakable joy! This day is a jubilee;*

jubilee ; my friends and servants shall share my satisfaction.

While he dispatched messengers to the gentlemen in the neighbourhood, to announce this event, I was so much affected with the tumults of passion, that I fell sick, fevered, and in less than three hours, became quite delirious ; so that the preparations were countermanded, and the joy of the family converted into grief and despair. Physicians were instantly called, I was plentifully bled in the foot, my lower extremities were bathed in a decoction of salutiferous herbs ; in ten hours after I was taken ill, I enjoyed a critical sweat, and next day, felt no remains of the distemper. During the progress of this fever, my father never quitted my bed-side, but administered the prescriptions of the physicians with the most pious care ; while captain Bowling manifested his concern by the like attendance. I no sooner found myself delivered from the disease, than I bethought myself of my honest friend Strap ; and resolving to make him happy forthwith, in the knowledge of my good fortune, told my father, in general, that I had been infinitely obliged to this faithful adherent ; and begged he would indulge me so far as to send for him.

My request was instantly complied with, and a messenger detached to the ship. My health being, in the mean time re-established, and my mind composed, I began to relish this important turn of my fortune, in reflecting upon the advantages with which it must be attended ; and as the idea of my lovely Narcissa always joined itself to every scene of happiness I could imagine, I entertained myself now with the prospect of possessing her in that distinguished sphere, to which she was intitled by

her birth and qualifications. Having often mentioned her name while I was deprived of my senses, my father guessed that there was an intimate connection between us, and discovering the picture which hung in my bosom by a ribbon, did not doubt that it was the resemblance of my amiable mistress: In this belief he was confirmed by my uncle, who told him that it was the picture of a young woman, to whom I was under promise of marriage. Alarmed at this piece of information, Don Rodriguez took the first opportunity of questioning me about the circumstances of this affair, which when I had candidly recounted, he approved of my passion, and promised to contribute all in his power towards its success. I was transported on this occasion, and throwing myself at his feet, told him, he had now completed my happiness; for without the possession of Narcissa, I could never be happy. He raised me with a smile of paternal fondness; said, he knew what it was to be in love; and observed, that if he had been as tenderly beloved by his father, as I was by mine, he would not now, perhaps, have cause—Here he was interrupted by a sigh, the tears stood collected in his eye, he suppressed the dictates of his grief, and desired me to relate the passages of my life, which my uncle had told him were manifold and surprising. I recounted the most material circumstances of my fortune, to which he listened with wonder and attention, manifesting from time to time those different emotions, which my different situations may be supposed to have raised in a parent's breast; and when my detail was ended, blessed God for the adversity I had undergone, which, he said, enlarged the understanding, improved the heart, steeled

fleeced the Constitution, and qualified a young man for all the duties and enjoyments of life, much better than any education which affluence could bestow.

When I had thus satisfied his curiosity, I discovered an inclination to hear the particulars of his story, which he gratified, by beginning with his marriage, and proceeding to the day of his disappearing, as I have related in the first part of my memoirs. Careless of life, continued he, and unable to live in a place where every object recalled the memory of my dear Charlotte, I took my leave of you, my child, then an infant, with an heart full of unutterable wo, and setting out alone, at midnight, for the nearest sea-port, got on board a ship, bound, as I had heard, for France, and bid a long adieu to my native country. I went directly to Caen, where I was so lucky as to meet with a Count, whom I had formerly known in my travels: With this gentleman, I set out for Paris, where I was recommended as a tutor to a young nobleman, whom I accompanied to the court of Spain. There we remained a whole year, at the end of which I quitted my office and staid behind, by the advice of a Spanish grandee, who introduced me to another nobleman, who was afterwards created Viceroy of Peru. He insisted on my attending him to his government in the Indies, where, however, by reason of my religion, it was not in his power to make my fortune any other way than by encouraging me to trade, which I had not long prosecuted when my patron died, and I found myself in the midst of strangers, without one friend to support or protect me; urged by this consideration I sold my effects

and removed to this country, the governor of which having been appointed by the Viceroy, was my intimate acquaintance. Here, as Heaven prospered my endeavours, during a residence of sixteen years, in which my tranquillity was never invaded, but by the remembrance of your mother, whose death I have in secret mourned without ceasing; and the reflection of you, whose fate I could never learn, notwithstanding all my inquiries, by means of my friends in France, who, after the most strict examination, could give me no other account, than that you went abroad six years ago, and was never after heard of. I could not rest satisfied with this imperfect information, and though my hope of finding you was but languid, resolved to go in quest of you in person; for which purpose, I have remitted to Holland the value of twenty thousand pounds, and am in possession of fifteen thousand more, with which I intended to embark myself on board of Captain Bowling, before I discovered this amazing stroke of Providence, which you may be sure has not altered my intention.

My father having entertained us with this agreeable sketch of his life, withdrew, in order to relieve Don Antonio, who in his absence, had done the honours of his house; and I was just dressed for my appearance among the guests, when Sirap arrived from the ship.

He no sooner entered the grand apartment, in which I was, and saw the magnificence of my apparel, than his speech was lost in amazement, and he gaped in silence at the objects that surrounded him—I took him by the hand, observed that I had sent for him to be a witness and sharer of my happiness, and told him I had found a father. At

these words he started, and after having continued some minutes with his mouth and eyes wide open, cried, Aha! odds, I know what! go thy ways, poor Narcissa, and go thy ways somebody else—well—Lord, what a thing is love?—God help us! are all our mad pranks and protestations come to this? what! and you have fixed your habitation in this distant land! God prosper you, I find we must part at last, for I would not leave my poor carcase so far from my native home, for all the wealth of the universe! With these ejaculations, he began to sob and make wry faces; upon which I assured him of his mistake, both in regard to Narcissa, and my staying in Paraguay, and informed him, as briefly as I could, of the great event which had happened. Never was rapture more ludicrously expressed, than in the behaviour of this worthy creature who cried, laughed, whistled, sung and danced, all in a breath; his transport was scarce over when my father entered, who no sooner understood that this was Strap, than he took him by the hand, saying, Is this the honest man who befriended you so much in your distress? you are welcome to my house, and I shall soon put it in the power of my son to reward you for your good offices in his behalf; in the mean time, go with us and partake of the repast that is provided. Strap, wild as he was with joy, would by no means accept of the proffered honour, crying, God forbid! I know my distance, your worship shall excuse me. And Don Rodriguez finding his modesty invincible, recommended him to his Major Domo, to be treated with the utmost respect; while he carried me into the large saloon, where I was presented to a numerous company, who loaded me

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with compliments and caresses, and congratulated my father in terms not proper for me to repeat.

Without specifying the particulars of our entertainment, let it suffice to say, it was at the same time elegant and sumptuous, and the rejoicing lasted two days : After which, Don Rodriguez settled his affairs, converted his effects into silver and gold, visited and took leave of all his friends, who were grieved at his departure, and honoured me with considerable presents ; and coming on board of my uncle's ship, with the first favourable wind, we sailed from the Rio de la Plata, and in two months came safe to an anchor in the harbour of Kingston, in the island of Jamaica.

I inquired, as soon as I got ashore, about my generous companion Mr. Thomson ; and hearing that he lived in a flourishing condition, upon the estate left to him by his wife's father, who had been dead some years, I took horse immediately, with the consent of Don Rodriguez, who had heard me mention him with great regard, and in a few hours reached the place of his habitation.

I should much wrong the delicacy of Mr. Thomson's sentiments, to say barely he was glad to see me : He felt all that the most sensible and disinterested friendship could feel on this occasion, introduced me to his wife, a very amiable young lady, who had already blessed him with two fine children ; and being as yet ignorant of my circumstances, frankly offered me the assistance of his purse and interest. I thanked him for his generous intention, and made him acquainted with my situation, on which he congratulated me with great joy, and after I had staid with him a whole day and night, accompanied me back to Kingston, to wait

wait upon my father, who had invited him to his house. While my father and I were caressed among the gentlemen on shore, Capt. Bowling had wrote to his owners, by the packet, which sailed a few days after our arrival, signifying his prosperous voyage hitherto, and desiring them to enture his ship and cargo homeward bound ; after which he applied himself so heartily to the loading his ship, that with the assistance of Mr. Thomson, she was full in less than six weeks. This kind gentleman likewise procured for Don Rodriguez, bills upon London for the greatest part of his gold and silver, by which means it was secured against the risk of the seas and the enemy.

Every thing being ready, we took our leave of our kind entertainers, and going on board at Port Royal, set sail for England on the first day of June. We beat up to windward with fine easy weather ; and one night believing ourselves near Cape Tiberoon, lay to, with an intention to wood and water next morning in the bay. While we remained in this situation, a sailor having drank more new rum than he could carry, staggered over-board, and notwithstanding all the means that could be used to preserve him, went to the bottom and disappeared. About two hours after this melancholy accident happened, as I enjoyed a cool air on the quarter-deck, I heard a voice rising, as it were, out of the sea, and calling, Ho, the ship, a hoy ! Upon which one of the men upon the fore-castle cried, I'll be d—n'd, if that an't Jack Marlinspike, who went over-board ! Surprised at this event, I jumped into the boat that lay along-side, with the second mate and four men, and rowing towards the place, from whence the voice (which repeated the hail)

seemed

seemed to proceed, we perceived something floating upon the water; when we had rowed a little farther, we discerned it to be a man riding upon a hencoop, who seeing us approach, pronounced with a hoarse voice, d—n your bloods! why did you not answer when I hailed? Our mate, who was a veritable seaman, hearing this salute, said, By G—d, my lads, this is none of our man—This is the devil—pull away for the ship. The fellows obeyed his command, without question, and were already some fathoms on our return, when I insisted on their taking up the poor creature, and prevailed upon them to go back to the wreck, which, when we came near the second time, and signified our intention, we received an answer of—Avast, avast, what ship, brother? Being satisfied in this particular, he cried, d—n the ship, I was in hopes it had been my own; where are you bound? We gratified his curiosity in this too; upon which he suffered himself to be taken on board, and after being comforted with a dram, told us he belonged to the Vesuvio man of war, upon a cruize off the Island of Hispaniola; that he had fallen over-board about four and twenty hours ago, and the ship being under sail, they did not chuse to bring to, but tossed a hen-coop over-board for his convenience, upon which he was in good hopes of reaching the Cape next morning; howsomever, he was as well content to be aboard us, because he did not doubt but that we should meet his ship; and if he had gone ashore in the bay, he might have been taken prisoner by the French. My uncle and father were very much diverted with the account of this fellow's unconcerned behaviour; and in two days, meeting with the Vesuvio, as he expected, he was sent on board of her according to his desire. Hav-

Having beat up successfully the windward passage, we stretched to the northward, and falling in with a westerly wind, in eight weeks arrived in soundings, and in two days after made the Lizard. It is impossible to express the joy I felt at sight of English ground! Don Rodriguez was not unmoved, and Strap shed tears of gladness. The sailors profited by our satisfaction; the shoe that was nailed to the mast, being quite filled with our liberality. My uncle resolved to run up into the Downs at once, but the wind shifting when we were a-breast of the Isle of Wight, he was obliged to turn into St. Helens, and came to an anchor at Spithead, to the great mortification of the crew, thirty of whom were immediately pressed on board of a man of war.

My father and I went ashore immediately to Portsmouth, leaving Strap with the Captain to go round with the ship and take care of our effects; and I discovered so much impatience to see my charming Narcissa, that my father permitted me to ride across the country to her brother's house; while he should hire a post-chaise for London, where he would wait for me at a place to which I directed him.

Fired with all the eagerness of passion, I took post that very night, and in the morning reached an inn, about three miles from the Squire's habitation; here I remained till next morning, allaying the torture of my impatience with the rapturous hope of seeing that divine creature, after an absence of eighteen months, which so far from impairing, had raised my love to the most exalted pitch! Neither were my reflections free from apprehension, that sometimes intervened in spite of all

all my hope, and represented her as having yielded to the importunity of her brother, and blessed the arms of an happy rival. My thoughts were even maddened with the fear of her death; and when I arrived in the dark at the house of Mrs. Sagely, I had not for some time courage to desire admittance, lest my soul should be shocked with dismal riding. At length, however, I knocked, and no sooner certified the good gentlewoman of my voice than she opened the door and received me with a most affectionate embrace, that brought tears into her aged eyes. For Heaven's sake! dear mother (cried I) tell me, how is Narcissa? is she the same that I left her? She blessed my ears with saying, She is as beautiful, in as good health, and as much yours as ever. Transported at this assurance, I begged to know if I could not see her that very night; when this sage matron gave me to understand that my mistress was in London, and that things were strangely altered in the Squire's house since my departure; that he had been married a whole year to Melinda, who at first found means to wean his attention so much from Narcissa, that he became quite careless of that lovely sister; that my mistress being badly treated by her sister-in-law, had gone to town, in expectation of my arrival; and had been pestered with the addresses of Lord Quiverwit, who, finding all his artifices unsuccessful, had consoled himself for her indifference, by marrying another lady some weeks ago, who had already left him on account of some family uneasiness. Besides this, she told me there was not much harmony between Melinda and the Squire, who was so much disgusted at the number of gallants who continued to hover about her even after marriage;

marriage ; that he hurried her down into the country much against her inclination, where their animosities had risen to such a height, that they preserved no decency before company or servants, but abused one another in the grossest terms.

This good old gentlewoman, to give me a convincing proof of my dear Narcissa's unalterable love, gratified me with a sight of the last letter she had favoured her with, in which I was mentioned with so much honour, tenderness and concern, that my soul was fired with impatience, and I determined to ride all night, that I might have it the sooner in my power to make her happy. Mrs. Sagely perceiving my eagerness, begged leave to remind me of the sentiments with which I went abroad, that would not permit me for any selfish gratification to prejudice the fortune of that amiable young lady, who must entirely depend upon me, after having bestowed herself in marriage. I thanked her for her kind concern, and as briefly as possible described my flourishing situation, which afforded this humane person infinite wonder and satisfaction. I told her that now I had an opportunity to manifest my gratitude for the obligations I owed, I would endeavour to make her old age comfortable and easy ; as a step to which I proposed she should come and live with Narcissa and me.— This venerable gentlewoman was so much affected with my words, that the tears ran down her ancient cheeks ; she thanked Heaven that I had not believed the presages she had made, on her first acquaintance with me, acknowledging my generosity, as she called it, in the most elegant and pathetic expressions ; but declined my proposal, on account of her attachment to her dear melancholy cottage.

cottage. Finding her immoveable on this subject, I insisted on her accepting a present of thirty guineas, and took my leave, resolving to accommodate her with the same sum annually, for the more comfortable support of the infirmities of age.

Having rode all night, I arrived at Canterbury in the morning, where I allighted to procure fresh horses; and as I walked into the inn, perceived an apothecary's shop on the other side of the street, with the name of Morgan over the door. Pleased at this discovery, I could not help thinking that my old mess-mate had settled in this place; and upon inquiry, found my conjecture true, and that he was married lately to a widow of that city, with whom he had received three thousand pounds. Rejoiced at this intelligence, I went to his shop, and found my friend behind the counter. I saluted him at entrance, with "Your servant Mr. Morgan." Upon which he looked at me, and replying, "Your most humble servant, goot Sir;" rubbed his ingredients in the mortar, without any emotion. What I said I, Morgan, have you forgot your old mess-mate? At these words, he looked up again, and starting, cried, As Got is my—sure it cannot—yes, by my falsation, I pelieve it is my dear frient Mr. Rantom. He was no sooner convinced of my identity, than he threw down the pestle, overset the mortar, and jumping over the board, swept up the contents with his clothes, flew about my neck, hugged me affectionately, and daubed me all over with turpentine and the yolks of eggs, which he had been mixing when I came in. Our mutual congratulations being over, he told me that he had found himself a widower upon his return from the West Indies; that he had got interest to be

be appointed surgeon of a man of war, in which capacity he had served some years, until he married an apothecary's widow, with whom he now enjoyed a pretty good some of money, peace and quiet, and good trade. He was desirous of hearing my adventures, which I assured him I had not time to relate, but told him in general, my circumstances were very good, and that I hoped to see him when I should not be in such a hurry as at present. He insisted however on my staying breakfast, and introduced me to his wife, who seemed to be a decent sensible woman. In the course of our conversation, he shewed the sleeve-buttons I had exchanged with him at our parting in the West Indies, and was not a little proud to see that I had preserved his with the same care.

Having renewed our protestations of friendship, I bid the honest Welshman and his spouse farewell, and taking post horses, arrived at London that same night, where I found my father in good health, to whom I imparted what I had learned of Narcissa. This indulgent parent approved of my intention of marrying her, even without a fortune, provided her brother's consent could not be obtained; promised to make over to me in a few days a sufficiency to maintain her in a fashionable manner, and expressed a desire of seeing this amiable creature. As I had not slept the night before, and was besides fatigued with my journey, I found myself under a necessity of taking some repose, and went to bed accordingly; next morning I took a chair, and went to my charmer's lodgings, and inquired for Miss Williams. I had not waited in a parlour longer than a minute, when this young woman entered, and no sooner perceived me, than she shrieked, and ran backward;

backward; I got between her and the door, and clasping her in my arms, brought her to herself by an embrace. Good heaven! cried she, Mr. Random, is it you indeed! my mistress will run-distracted with joy. I told her, it was from an apprehension that my sudden appearance would have some bad effect on my dear Narcissa, that I had desired to see her first, in order to concert some method of acquainting her mistress gradually with my arrival. She approved of my conduct, and charged herself with that office, and left me glowing with desire of seeing and embracing the object of my love. In a little time I heard somebody coming down stairs in haste, and the voice of my angel pronounce, with an eager tone, O heaven! is it possible! where is he? How were my faculties aroused at this well-known sound! and how was my soul transported, when she broke in upon my view, in all the bloom of ripened beauty! Ye whose souls are susceptible of the most delicate impressions, whose tender bosoms have felt the affecting vicissitudes of love, who have suffered an absence of eighteen long months from the dear object of your hope, and found at your return the meltin'g fair, as kind and constant as your heart could wish, do me justice on this occasion, and conceive what unutterable rapture possessed us both, while we flew into one another's arms! This was no time for speech, locked in a mutual embrace, we continued some minutes in a silent trance of joy! When I thus encircled all that my soul held dear, while I hung over her beauties, beheld her eyes sparkle, and every feature flush with virtuous fondness; when I saw her enchanting bosom heave with undissembled rapture, and knew myself the happy cause;

cause; Heavens! what was my situation! I am tempted to commit my paper to the flames, and to renounce my pen for ever, because its most ardent expression so poorly describes the emotions of my soul. O adorable Narcissa! cried I. O miracle of beauty, love and truth! I at last fold thee in my arms! I at last can call thee mine! no jealous brother shall thwart our happiness again; fortune hath at length recompensed me for all my sufferings, and enabled me to do justice to my love. The dear creature smiled ineffably charming, and with a look of bewitching tenderness, said, And shall we never part again? Never! I replied, thou wondrous pattern of all earthly perfection! never, until death shall divide us! by this ambrosial kiss, a thousand times more fragrant than the breeze that sweeps the orange grove, I never more will leave thee!

As my first transport abated, my passion grew turbulent and unruly. I was giddy with standing on the brink of bliss, and all my virtue and philosophy were scarce sufficient to restrain the inordinate sallies of desire. Narcissa perceived the conflict within me, and with her usual dignity of prudence, called off my imagination from the object in view, and with eager expressions of interested curiosity, desired to know the particulars of my voyage. In this I gratified her inclination, bringing my story down to the present hour. She was infinitely surprised at the circumstances of my finding my father, which brought tears in her lovely eyes. She was transported at hearing that he approved of my name, discovered a longing desire of being introduced to him, congratulated herself and me upon my good fortune, and observed that this great and unexpected stroke of fate seemed to have been brought

brought about by the immediate direction of Providence. Having entertained ourselves some hours with the genuine effusions of our souls, I obtained her consent to complete my happiness as soon as my father should judge it proper; and applying with my own hands a valuable necklace, composed of diamonds and amethysts set alternately, I took my leave, promising to return in the afternoon with Don Rodriguez. When I went home, this generous parent inquired very affectionately about the health of my dear Narcissa, to whom, that I might be the more agreeable, he put into my hand a deed, by which I found myself in possession of fifteen thousand pounds, exclusive of the profits of my own merchandise, which amounted to three thousand more. After dinner I accompanied him to the lodgings of my mistress, who being dressed for the occasion, made a most dazzling appearance. I could perceive him struck with her figure, which I really think was the most beautiful that ever was created under the sun. He embraced her tenderly, and told her he was proud of having a son who had spirit to attempt, and qualifications to engage the affections of such a fine lady. She blushed at this compliment, and with eyes full of the softest languishment turned upon me, said, she would have been unworthy of Mr. Random's attention, had she been blind to his extraordinary merit. I made no other answer than a low bow. My father sighing, pronounced, Such once was my Charlotte! while the tear rushed into his eye, and the tender heart of Narcissa manifested itself in two precious drops of sympathy, which, but for his presence, I would have kissed away. Without repeating the particulars of our conversation, I shall only observe, that

Don

Don Rodriguez was as much charmed with her good sense as with her appearance ; and she was no less pleased with his understanding and polite address.

After having spent the evening to the satisfaction of all present, my father addressed himself thus to Nareissa : Madam, give me leave to consider you hereafter as my daughter, in which capacity I insist upon your accepting this first instance of my paternal duty and affection. With these words, he put into her hand a bank note for 300l. which she no sooner examined, than with a low courtesy, she replied, Dear Sir, tho' I have not the least occasion for this supply, I have too great a veneration for you to refuse this proof of your generosity and esteem, which I the more freely receive, because I already look upon Mr. Random's interest as inseparably connected with mine. He was extremely well pleased at her frank and ingenuous reply, upon which we saluted, and wished her good night. The letter, at my request, was dispatched to Sussex by an express, and in the mean time, Don Rodriguez, to grace my nuptials, hired a ready-furnished house, and set up a very handsome equipage.

Though I passed the greatest part of the day with the darling of my soul, I found leisure sometimes to be among my former acquaintance, who were astonished at the magnificence of my appearance ; Banter in particular was confounded at the strange vicissitudes of my fortune, the causes of which he endeavoured in vain to discover, until I thought fit to disclose the whole secret of my last voyage, partly in consideration of our former intimacy, and partly to prevent unfavourable conjectures, which he

he and others, in all probability, would have made in regard to my circumstances. He professed great satisfaction at this piece of news, and I had no cause to believe him insincere, when I considered that he would now look upon himself as acquitted of the debt he owed me, and at the same time flatter himself with hopes of borrowing more. I carried him home to dinner with me, and my father liked his conversation so much, that upon hearing his difficulties, he desired me to accommodate him for the present, and inquire if he would accept of a commission in the army, towards the purchase of which he would willingly lend him money. Accordingly, I gave my friend an opportunity of being alone with me, when, as I expected, he told me that he was just on the point of being reconciled to an old rich uncle, whose heir he was, but wanted a few pieces for immediate expence, which he desired I would lend him, and take his bond for the whole. His demand was limited to ten guineas; and when I put twenty in his hand, he stared at me for some moments, then putting it into his purse, said, Ay, 'tis all one, you'll have the whole in a very short time. When I had taken his note, to save the expence of a bond, I expressed some surprise that a fellow of his spirit should loiter away his time in idleness, and asked why he did not choose to make his fortune in the army? What! (said he) throw away money upon a subaltern's commission, to be under the command of a parcel of scoundrels who have raised themselves above me by the most infamous practices! no, I love independency too well to sacrifice my life, health, and pleasure for such a pitiful consideration. Finding him averse to this way of life, I changed the subject,

ject, and returned to Don Rodriguez. By his permission I waited on my charmer ; and the time of our marriage was fixed at the distance of two days. During this interval, Narcissa endeavoured to reconcile some of her relations in town to her marriage with me ; but finding them all deaf to her remonstrances, either out of envy or prejudice ; she told me with the most enchanting sweetness, while the tears bedewed her lovely cheeks, Sure the world will no longer question your generosity, when you take a poor forlorn beggar to your arms. Affected with her sorrow, I pressed the fair mourner to my breast, and swore that she was more dear and welcome on that account, because she had sacrificed her friends and fortune to her love for me. My uncle, for whose character she had a great veneration, being by this time come to town, I introduced him to my bride ; and although he was not very much subject to refined sensations, he was struck dumb with admiration at her beauty. After having kissed and gazed at her for some time, he turned to me, saying, " Odds bods, Rory ! here's a notable prize indeed, finely built and gloriously rigged, I faith ! if she an't well manned when you have the command of her, firrah, you deserve to go to sea in a cockle-shell. No offence, I hope, niece ; you must not mind what I say, being, as the saying is, a plain seafaring man." She received him with great civility, told him she had longed a great while to see a person to whom she was so much indebted for his generosity to Mr. Random, that she looked upon him as her uncle, by which name she begged leave to call him for the future, and that she was very sure he could say nothing that could give her the least offence. The honest cap-

Narcissa was transported at her courteous behaviour, and insisted upon giving her away at the ceremony, swearing that he loved her as well as if she was his own child, and that he would give two thousand guineas to the first fruit of our love, as soon as it could squeak. Every thing being prepared for the solemnization of our nuptials, the auspicious hour arrived, when Don Rodriguez and my uncle went in the coach to fetch the bride and Miss Williams, leaving me with a parson, Banter and Strap, neither of whom had as yet seen my charming mistress. My faithful valet, who was on the rack of impatience to behold a lady of whom he had heard so much, no sooner understood that the coach was returned, than he placed himself at a window to have a peep at her as she alighted; and when he saw her, he clapped his hands together, turned up the white of his eyes, and with his mouth wide open, remained in a sort of extacy, which broke out into "*Dea certe! qualis in Eurota ripis, aut per juga Cynthia exercet Diana choros!*" The doctor and Banter were surprised to hear my man speak Latin, but when my father led Narcissa into the room, the object of their admiration was soon changed, as appeared in the countenances of both. Indeed they must have been the most insensible of all things, could they have beheld, without emotion, the divine creature that approached. She was dressed in a sacque of white satin, embroidered on the breast with gold; the crown of her head was covered with a small French cap, from whence descended her beautiful hair in ringlets that waved upon her snowy neck, which dignified the necklace I had given her; her looks glowed with modesty and love; and her bosom, thro' the veil of gauze

that

that shaded it, afforded a prospect of Elysium! I received this inestimable gift of Providence as became me; and in a little time the clergyman did his office, my uncle, at his own earnest request, acting the part of a father to my dear Narcissa, who trembled very much, and had scarce spirits sufficient to support her under this great change of situation. Soon as she was mine by the laws of heaven and earth, I imprinted a burning kiss upon her lips, my father embraced her tenderly, my uncle hugged her with great affection, and I presented her to my friend Banter, who saluted her in a very polite manner; Miss Williams hung round her neck, and wept plentifully; while Sirap fell upon his knees, and begged to kiss his lady's hand, which she presented with great affability. I shall not pretend to describe my own feelings at this juncture; let it suffice to say, that after having supped and entertained ourselves 'till ten o'clock, I cautioned my Narcissa against exposing her health, by sitting up too late, and she was prevailed upon to withdraw with her maid to an apartment destined for us. When she left the room her face was overspread with a blush that set all my blood in a state of fermentation, and made every pulse beat with tenfold vigour! She was so cruel as to let me remain in this condition a full half hour; when, no longer able to restrain my impatience, I broke from the company, burst into her chamber, pushed out her confidante, locked the door, and found her—O Heaven and earth! a feast, a thousand times more delicious than my most sanguine hopes presaged! But let me not profane the chaste mysteries of Hymen—I was the happiest of men!

In the morning I was awaked by three or four drums, which Banter had placed under the window ; upon which I withdrew the curtain, and enjoyed the unspeakable satisfaction of contemplating those angelic charms, which were now in my possession ! The light darting upon my Narcissa's eyes, she awoke also, and recollecting her situation, hid her blushes in my bosom. In the mean time, my uncle knocked at the door, and bid me turn out, for I had had a long spell. I got up accordingly, and sent Miss Williams to her mistress, myself receiving the congratulation of Captain Bowling, who rallied me in his sea phrase, with great success.— In less than an hour, Don Rodriguez led my wife in to breakfast, where she received the compliments of the company on her looks, which, they said, if possible, were improved by matrimony. As her delicate ears were offended with none of those indecent ambiguities, which are too often spoke on such occasions, she behaved with dignity, unaffected modesty, and ease ; and as the testimony of my affection and esteem, I presented her, in presence of them all, with a deed, by which I settled the whole fortune I was possessed of, on her and her heirs for ever. She accepted it with a glance of most tender acknowledgment, observed, that she could not be surpris'd at any thing of this kind I should do, and desired my father to take the trouble of keeping it, saying, Next to my own, Mr. Random, you are the person in whom I ought to have the greatest confidence. Charmed with her prudent and ingenuous manner of proceeding, he took the paper, and assured her that it should not lose its value while in his custody.

My

My father intending to revisit his native country, and pay the tribute of a few tears at my mother's grave, Narcissa and I resolved to accompany him in the execution of this pious office, and accordingly prepared for the journey; in which, however my uncle would not engage, being resolved once more to try his fortune at sea. In the mean time, he renewed his will in favour of my wife and me, and deposited it in the hands of his brother-in-law: While I summoned the Squire to produce his father's will at Doctor's Commons, and employed a proctor to manage the affair in my absence.

Every thing being thus settled, we took leave of all our friends in London, and set out for Scotland, Don Rodriguez, Narcissa, Miss Williams, and I in the coach, and Strap, with two men in livery on horseback: As we made easy stages, my charmer held it out very well, till we arrived at Edinburgh, where as soon as our family was known, we were loaded with caresses, and Narcissa was so much pleased with the civilities she received, that she protested she would never desire to live in any other part of the world.

Here Don Rodriguez having intelligence that his nephew, the fox-hunter, had spent his estate, which was to be exposed to sale by public auction, he determined to make a purchase of the spot where he was born, and actually bought the whole of his father's lands.

In a few days after this bargain was made, we left Edinburgh, in order to go and take possession; and by the way, halted one night in this town, where I was educated. Upon inquiry, I found that Mr. Crab was dead; whereupon I sent for his executor, paid the sum I owed, with interest, and

took up my bond. Mr. Potion and his wife hearing of our arrival, had the assurance to come to the inn, where we lodged, and send up their names, with the desire of being permitted to pay their respects to my father and me : But their sordid behaviour towards me, when I was an orphan, had made too deep an impression on my mind, to be effaced by this mean mercenary piece of condescension ; I therefore rejected their message with disdain, and bid Strap tell them that my father and I desired to have no communication with such low-minded wretches as they were.

They had not been gone half an hour, when a woman without any ceremony, opened the door of the room where we sat, and making towards my father, accosted him with “ Uncle, your servant, “ I am glad to see you.” This was no other than one of my female cousins mentioned in the first part of my memoirs, to whom Don Rodriguez replied, Pray, who are you, madam ? O ! cried she, my cousin Rory there, knows me very well, Don’t you remember me, Rory ? Yes madam, said I, for my own part, I shall never forget you. Sir, this is one of the young ladies, who, as I have formerly told you, treated me so humanely in my childhood ! When I pronounced these words, my father’s resentment glowed in his visage, and he ordered her to be gone, with such a commanding aspect, that she retired in a fright, muttering curses as she went down stairs : We afterwards learned that she was married to an ensign, who had already spent all her fortune ; and that her sister had borne a child to her mother’s footman, who is now her husband, and keeps a petty ale-house in the country.

The fame of our flourishing condition having arrived at this place before us, we got notice that the magistrates intended next day to compliment us with the freedom of their town; upon which my father considering their complaisance in the right point of view, ordered the horses to the coach early in the morning, when we proceeded to our estate, which lay about a dozen miles from this place.

When we came within half a league of the house, we were met by a prodigious number of poor tenants, men, women and children, who testified their joy by loud acclamations, and accompanied our coach to the gate. As there is no part of the world in which the peasants are more attached to their Lords than in Scotland, we were almost devoured by their affection in getting out of the coach: My father had always been their favourite, and now that he appeared their master, after being thought dead so long, their joy broke out into a thousand extravagancies. When we got into the court yard, we were surrounded by a vast number, who crowded together so closely to see us, that several were in danger of being squeezed to death; those who were near Don Rodriguez fell upon their knees, and kissed his hand, or the hem of his garment, praying aloud for long life and prosperity to him; others approached Narcissa and me in the same manner; while the rest clapped their hands at a distance, and invoked Heaven to shower its choicest blessings on our heads! in short, the whole scene, though rude, was so affecting, that the gentle partner of my heart wept over it, and my father himself could not refrain from dropping a tear.

Having welcomed his daughter and me to his house, he ordered some bullocks to be killed, and some hogheads of ale to be brought from the neighbouring village, to regale those honest people, who had not enjoyed such a holiday for many years before.

Next day we were visited by the gentlemen in the neighbourhood, most of them our relations, one of whom brought along with him my cousin, the fox-hunter, who had staid at his house since he was obliged to leave his own. My father was generous enough to receive him kindly, and even promised to purchase for him a commission in the army, at which he expressed great thankfulness and joy.

My charming Narcissa was universally admired and loved for her beauty, affability and good sense; and so well pleased with the situation of the place, and the company around, that she has not as yet discovered the least desire of changing her habitation.

We had not been many days settled, when I prevailed upon my father to pay a visit to the village where I had been at school. Here we were received by the principal inhabitants, who entertained us in the church, where Mr. Syntax the schoolmaster, (my tyrant being dead) pronounced a Latin speech in honour of our family; and none exerted themselves more than Strap's father and relations, who looked upon the honest valet as the first gentleman of their race, and honoured his benefactors accordingly. Having received the homage of this place we retired, leaving forty pounds for the benefit of the poor of the parish; and that very night, Strap being a little elevated with the

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regard that had been shewn to him, and to me on his account, ventured to tell me, that he had a sneaking kindness for Miss Williams, and that if his lady and I would use our interest in his behalf, he did not doubt that she should listen to his addresses. Surprized at this proposal, I asked if he knew the story of that unfortunate young gentlewoman? Upon which he replied, Yes, yes, I know what you mean; she has been unhappy, I grant you, but what of that? I am convinced of her reformation; or else you and my good lady would not treat her with such respect. As for the censure of the world, I value it not a fig's end, besides, the world knows nothing of the matter. I commended his philosophy, and interested Narcissa in his cause; who interceded so effectually, that in a little time Miss Williams yielded her consent, and they were married with the approbation of Don Rodriguez, who gave him five hundred pounds to stock a farm, and made him overseer of his estate. My generous bed-fellow gave her maid the same sum; so that they live in great peace and plenty within half a mile of us, and daily put up prayers for our preservation.

If there be such a thing as true happiness on earth, I enjoy it. The impetuous transports of my passion are now settled and mellowed into endearing fondness and tranquillity of love, rooted by that intimate connexion and interchange of hearts, which nought but virtuous wedlock can produce. Fortune seems determined to make ample amends for her former cruelty; for my proctor writes, that notwithstanding the clause in my father-in-law's will, on which the Squire founds his claim, I shall certainly recover my wife's fortune, in consequence

of

of a codical annexed, which explains that clause, and limits her restriction to the age of nineteen, after which she was at her own disposal. I would have set out for London immediately after receiving this piece of intelligence, but my dear angel has been qualmish of late, and begins to grow remarkably round in the waist; so that I cannot leave her in such an interesting situation, which I hope will produce something to crown my felicity.

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